

MOUTH OF THE RIVER

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NEW FOLKS ON BOARD

By Annika Barth

In March, four new representatives were elected to the School Board. Representing Durham are Thomas Newkirk and Al Howland, representing Lee is Maria Barth, and representing Madbury is Ed Charlé. What follows are accounts of their goals, challenges and experiences so far on the board.

Thomas Newkirk, being an English professor at UNH, is already familiar with school work and teaching. Newkirk thought he would use his educational background to give back to the community in an area that he respects and is important to him. "I...have great affection for this school district, as all of my children received an excellent education here... I have not, to this point, given a great deal of time to community organizations, and I thought that it was time to do it," said Newkirk.

Newkirk's goals as a representative include establishing a good working relationship with Dr. Morse, the new superintendent, addressing building issues such as enhancing energy efficiency and ensuring that the school complies with building codes, and teacher development. "I would like to



support initiatives that help teachers develop new courses, and innovate within existing courses," said Newkirk. He believes that the structure of academics, such as the school day, calendar and curriculum should be examined because few changes have been made to them in the last 100 years. "In the long run, we need to ask how will/should school be different as we move into the 21st century," said Newkirk.

To achieve these goals, Newkirk believes that the first step is to learn. Many studies have been done regarding education and school facilities that the board needs to examine before determining a set of reasonable improvements that need to be made. The next step is to get the community on board and in support of those improvements. Newkirk anticipates that the learning, prioritizing and persuading of the community will be the three largest challenges for the board.

Newkirk said, personally, "The biggest challenge is unfamiliarity with so many issues, terms, policies, histories." Also, the role a board member is expected to play as opposed to that of a professor, which he is used to, is different. Newkirk explains that as a professor "you have great liberty (even the expectation) to enter in all kinds of debates and discussions." Board meetings are much more structured and formal and he must sit quietly more often than he is used to. As Newkirk put it, "There's a Quaker saying, 'Never miss an opportunity to keep your mouth shut.' I have to learn that."

Along with challenges and uncertainties that come with

pursuing a responsibility like this, Newkirk has found pleasure in getting to know his fellow representatives and learning more about his community.

Al Howland, the other newly elected Durham representa-



tive, also has a background in academics as a high school teacher. Similar to Newkirk, Howland felt his experience could be used to better his community.

Howland's goals include improving communication between schools and the community and improving academics, which he believes should be our

central focus and concern. "The first step is to make sure that items that are major concerns in the community are put on board meeting agendas," Howland said. "This will allow...the board to develop policies to resolve problems."

"The best part of this experience is that it has allowed me to meet and talk with some very dedicated people. That includes the members of the board, the superintendent, administrative staff, teachers, and students. It has been a great learning experience"

Howland feels that the biggest challenge for the board is tackling the large number of issues they need to address. These include the revision, editing and adoption of a number of policies by the beginning of summer, as desired by the superintendent, plus issues regarding the budget, NECAPs and facilities reports. Similar to Newkirk, Howland also feels that a big challenge for the board is learning and becoming familiar with the tasks and issues at hand. Personally, "I'm just starting to learn about all the mechanical building issues at the schools," Howland said.

Despite its many challenges, Howland has enjoyed aspects of the board as well. "The best part of this experience is that it has allowed me to meet and talk with some very dedicated people. That includes the members of the board, the superintendent, administrative staff, teachers, and students. It has been a great learning experience," said Howland.

Similarly to the other representatives, Ed Charlé ran for school board because he wanted to become more involved in the community. "I believe that an excellent public school system is an essential means to provide an equal opportunity for all citizens to become effective and fulfilled members of society. I hope that I can help Oyster River maintain its excellent school system in times of a declining enrollment and tighter budget," said Charlé.

Charlé has only been a resident in the district for three years



so his first goal is to become familiar with both the history of the school and as many ideas and concerns of employees and citizens as he can. Charlé said, "My second goal is to understand the function of a



school board member and learn how I can best address concerns and influence changes.”

Charlé has already taken a number of measures to become aware of the concerns and opinions of others. He has met individually with the superintendent, principals, food service director and several teachers. He has joined the Wellness Committee and Sustainability Committee. Charlé has also been in close conversation with friends and neighbors to ensure that members of the community are heard from as well.

Charlé believes the biggest struggle will be the issue of the budget especially with its correlation with taxes in hard economic times. Familiarizing himself with the way in which board meetings operate is a personal challenge for Charlé. “School board deliberation is by law required to be public and it continues to be challenging for me to discuss issues within the confines of the formal and structured board meeting format,” said Charlé.

Charlé has had an enjoyable experience working with the other representatives and district personnel. “I have been impressed by the expertise and enthusiasm of all the members of the school district that I have met. I consider myself fortunate to be in a situation where my job allows me to interact with all of that wealth and talent,” said Charlé.



[Author is related to representative] Maria Barth, the chairwoman of the board, also has experience and background with school systems and education. When Barth lived in Kittery, Maine, she served on the school board

for 11 years and the town council for six. She moved to Lee, New Hampshire in 2006. She is familiar with the challenges our district faces and she has dealt with many of the same struggles while serving on the board in Kittery. “It takes a while to learn about budget and policy and the board’s role and it helps me because I’ve done that,” said Barth about her previous experience on Kittery’s school board. Another struggle she is familiar with is communicating with other board members. “It isn’t different from life itself,” Barth said about commu-



“It’s trying to make your little piece of the world the way you want it to be. You can’t change the world by yourself but you can change your little piece of the world through civility and empathy.”

nication. “It’s trying to make your little piece of the world the way you want it to be. You can’t change the world by yourself but you can change your little piece of the world through civility and empathy.”

Barth decided to run for School Board to set a good example for her grandchildren and because she believes in public service. Like Newkirk and Howland, Barth thought her experience would be helpful. She has many goals she is striving to accomplish. She hopes to continue setting a good example and to achieve excellence in education at an affordable price. She wishes to bring the community together, to be able to disagree in a polite manner, and to help people not blame and take sides. The first step, Barth believes, in accomplishing these feats is learning to listen without judging and to learn from criticism.

Barth expects the budget to be the greatest challenge. “As much as we want the best for our children and education, there is a limit on how much people can pay in taxes,” Barth said. Another challenge will be communication with the 60 percent of voters who do not have children and taking their opinions into consideration as well. The need for and development of a long-range strategic plan is also a major concern of Barth’s. She feels it is important to consider, right now, how to deal with long term issues regarding how we are going to handle population drops in the student body, changes in technology, and the up-keep of school facilities and innovation.

Barth, like the other newly elected representatives, enjoys being on the school board because of the new things she is learning and because she is getting involved in the community. It also feels good knowing her grandchildren have an excellent school system.

KIDS CREATING CHANGE



Sophie Webb
News Writer

Help the homeless, donate old eyeglasses, bring in food for the food drive! These are just some of the signs you may have seen hanging up around the school. These signs are advertising the annual Power of One project. The Power of One is a project done by almost all of the freshman World Cultures students at ORHS. The point of the project is to help a good cause and to teach kids that they can make a change, however big or small it may be.

“One of my major goals for world cultures is to encourage students to become active participants within their own society, as well as within the global community. I hope to help them understand that what they say, and do, and think is critically important, and that they, like many people we have learned about, can effect change in the world,” said Mrs. Raiford, World Cultures teacher at ORHS and creator of the project.

At the end of the unit, all students display their work and provide information about their project at the “Power of One night” where community members and peers are welcome to come and view the projects. The projects range from donating money to a good cause, collecting items to be donated, or raising awareness about a cause.

“World Cultures is beyond an academic understanding,” said Mr. Hawley, World Cultures teacher at ORHS. “Students can be positive forces in their local community but also their global community.”

As said by Mr. Hawley, there are many different ways and places to help. Some students’ projects provide help as close as Dover and some provide help as far as Haiti, Ghana, and many places all across the globe.

Mr. Pappas, also a world cultures teacher at ORHS, said, “Power of One is a great project to inspire activism among students and to realize that there is a lot of suffering in the world that students can help solve, just by doing their little part.”

Featured in this article is a list of many of the students involved in the project and what cause they are helping. Also featured are a few highlighted projects with more detail about what these students are doing to help.

Mr. Zotolli, a World Cultures teacher at ORHS, said, “I think that enabling anybody, whether it’s a student or an adult, to be able to make a change in somebody’s life is an important lesson to learn.”

Josh Mosher is doing his project on the Ghana Home of Hope Orphanage. In seventh grade Josh chose this same cause for a project he did then. He heard about it through a friend who had been traveling to Ghana for two years. Josh’s goal was to raise \$500 to donate to the orphans to provide them with food, school supplies, medicine, and anything else they could use the money to buy.

There are twenty two children in the orphanage and the founder, Elvis Morris Donkoh hopes to get more by the summer. Recently a goat house was built near the orphanage to provide the children with milk. It is the responsibility of the children to look after the goats.

Recently Elvis Morris Donkoh, Creator of the Home of Hope Orphanage in Ghana came to speak to students at ORHS. He spoke about his life as a child, teenager, and young adult in Ghana. He spoke about the help he tries to and does provide for orphans in Ghana. He has dedicated his life to helping other people.

To help this cause Josh held a tie dye fundraiser during focus time at ORHS on May 18th. It cost \$10 to ty die and you brought your own shirt.

“I want to give these children a life almost like mine. They deserve to live a long and happy life and I want to be a part of that,” said Mosher.

The following is a list of projects undertaken by World Cultures students based on information provided to *Mouth of the River*.

Keenan Grove & Nick Bergeron	St. Thomas More Food Pantry
Nick Kahn	Heifer International
Pete Antoneggti	Nothing but Nets
Owen McCabe	The Gorilla Organization
Jeremy Howland	Haitian Health Organization
Jon Dutka	The Carter Center (tropical diseases)
Connor McDonough	Global Gear Drive
Nortje Heilbron & Alex Cavalaro	American Cancer Society
Mikaela Baldy	Congenital Heart Defects
Josh Golden	Guinea Worm Prevention



Haiti Jeremy Howland

Jeremy Howland is doing his Power of One project on Haiti. What really inspired him to help Haiti was his opportunity to go there and have a hands on experience with an elementary school in Haiti- St, Pierre and get to meet the kids. Jeremy’s mom has been traveling to Haiti for ten years now, and this year Jeremy got to go with her.

“I don’t want people to forget about Haiti,” said Howland, “After any disaster people say, ‘oh, that’s horrible’ and then they just forget. I just want people to know that Haiti is still there and they need our help.”

Jeremy’s goal for his to project is to provide two kids with the chance to go to the St. Piere school. He is collecting donations to raise the 300 dollars of tuition that it will take for two children to go to school. Jeremy is working with the HHF, the Haitian Health Foundation.

Aaron Albert & Thomas Cusack	Vietnam Sports Equipment
Isabelle Banker	Child Labor
Annika Barth & Cameron Barth	Invasive species
Haley Bisson	SPCA
Matthew Bryant	Asian Long Horned Beetle
Jason Camp & Christopher Clement	Child Soldiers
Dominic D'Antilio & Haley Parry	Cancer
Zachary Henault	Nuclear Energy (needs help clarifying)
Erika Ireland	Cocheco Humane Society
Caitlin Lasher	The Special Olympics
James Tremblay	Rhino Poaching
Jared Wile	Diabetes
Madeline Young	Tarsier monkey
Alanna Bagdon & Belinda McCormick	Humane Society
Annie Batchelder & Siobhan Slavin	Homelessness
Devon Bowen	Girls and Boys Club
Liam Cahill & Patrick Mulhern	Food Insecurity
Joshua Howard	
Ellie Lewis & Alex Morrell	Child Soldiers
Brendan McKenna & Jordan White	Cancer
Charlotte Moore & Leah Mueller	Womenade
Benjamin Patton	Polar Bears
Timothy Stringer	Wounded Warrior/Letter Writing
Casey Aubin	Darfur
Melanie Daniels & Grace Tauriello	Dover Children's Home
Abigail Donovan	Haiti and Cholera
Katherine Howard & Zephyr Jaeger	Epilepsy
Tyler Jones	Great Bay/Water Quality
Abigail Limric	Food insecurity in NH
Lars Luxem	E Waste

Emily McCarten	Veterans and PTSD
Alyssa Merrill	Burn Victims
Samuel Smith & Cristiano Bianchi	Nutritious Food
William Stone	Famine in the Horn of Africa
Jocelyn Tavares	Special Olympics
Jonathan Weston	Dead Sea/Water Issues in Jordan

Womenade

Charlotte Moore & Leah Mueller

“For our project we have chosen to raise awareness for, and contribute to Oyster River Womenade. It is a local non-profit organization made up of women who help women and families in the community who are struggling,” said Charlotte Moore one of the two students doing this project.

“Womenade got started with a small group of women who chose not to go out and spend money on dinner or a movie. They took the money they would have spent and donated it to people who were looking for a little help,” Moore said.

Charlotte and Leah had heard about the organization through friends and through fundraisers the women used to hold, like the Quackfest. This year, Womenade is asking the community to hold fundraising parties between May 2 and August 20th to raise money for Womenade.

“For me, helping people close by is important because I can see firsthand the difference I am creating,” said Moore.

Leah and Charlotte volunteered at a water stop at the great bay half marathon where much of the proceeds went to Womenade. They have also gone to a board meeting to find out what it is that would be helpful to Womenade for them to do. In March they went to a Womenade “Meet and Greet” which is designed to let people know more about Womenade and what they do. As well as all of this, Charlotte and Leah hosted a party and helped Womenade put together “party kits.”



World Wild Life
Foundation
Brianna Burt

“I chose to do this because I have always been so close to animals,” said Burt, “I love the chance of getting to help them in anyway possible. It’s important to the world and me.”

For her power of one project, Briana Burt raised money to symbolically adopt a couple of sea turtles. Sea turtles are critically endangered from risks like, habitat destruction, getting caught in fishing nets or fishing gear, hunting and egg collection, and pollution and climate change. The money you pay to “adopt” the animals goes to the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF). Briana’s goal was to raise \$200 and make 100 people aware of the endangerment of sea turtles. Brianna had a jar out for small donations and constructed a large puzzle of a sea turtle for kids to play with while their parents read the poster she had set up. Burt has always been close to animals and hopes to help them in any way possible.

Madi Archibald & Maddy Abbott	Cocheco Valley Humane Society
Sam Colby	Special Olympics
Josh Fennerty	Action Against Hunger
Grace Fischer	Homelessness
Julia Hatch & Shelby Shepherd	Elvis Donkoh—Children's Home of Hope: Orphanage in Ghana
Adrianna Hill	Villalobos Pitbull Rescue
Alex Hiltunen	Natural Resources Defense Council/ Energy Conservation
Haley Keegan	Villalobos Pitbull Rescue
Wayne Legendre	NH SPCA
Rowan McAdams	Wounded Warriors/Support for Vets and their families
Josh Mosher	Elvis Donkoh—Children's Home of Hope: Orphanage in Ghana
Victoria Potts& Brianna Beaudette	Make a Wish Foundation
Bryce Schultz	Poverty in NH
Matt Walsh	Land Mines/The Marshall Legacy Institute
Adele Ziemek & Desiree LaPanne	Crossroads House Homeless Shelter
Trever Peppers	Oxfam/Global Poverty
Azabeth Lapham	Cocheco Valley Humane Society
Elizabeth Cilia & Alana Saravong	Pollution/Blue Ocean Society
Sadie Moore & Conor Deptula	Child Voice/Support for former child soldiers in Uganda
Eric Smath	Against Malaria Foundation
Heidi Chutter	Supporting local farms and sustainable agriculture
Matt Shea	Support for Cancer Patients
Peter Dubois & Jake Aldrich	Protection for Dolphins and Whales
Ashley Mitchell	Wounded Warriors/Support for Vets and their families



GOING BALD FOR A CAUSE



Adelia Couser
Features Co-Editor

then, but she continues to remain loyal to the cause. She tells Mouth of the River what motivated her to make such a sacrifice, what the event was like, and how her classmates responded.

Mouth of the River: What is the St. Baldrick's Foundation and how did you hear about it?

Beatrice Couser: The St. Baldrick's Foundation is a charity that raises money to support research for kids' cancer. They raise a lot of money through head-shaving events, which is what I went to; participants [who get their heads shaved] get sponsors to donate money, and then the shaved hair is used to make wigs for cancer patients. My dad, mom, and brother all shaved their heads at an event last year, so that's where I first learned about St. Baldrick's.

MOR: What made you decide to get your head shaved to support cancer research?

BC: People would often tell me that my hair was pretty, and around the time that St. Baldrick's came around I started thinking about those compliments. I started imagining what a cancer patient who'd lost their hair would think if they'd overheard that, and how it would've made them feel, and then how that feeling would make me feel... beyond the whole "supporting-charity" thing, that was the first thing that sparked me wanting to shave my head. Also, the hair would go toward making a wig, so in addition to being emotionally supportive by shaving my head, I would also be actually helping someone.

MOR: What was the event like?

BC: The event was awesome. I was basically surrounded by a whole bunch of other people who were exactly like me - obviously not in age or appearance, but in that they were there for the same reason, and that was very inspiring. Upon getting there, I felt like I was a part of something, which was a super cool feeling.

When the shaving actually came up, I was super, super excited. The entire room was watching, which ordinarily would've been uncomfortable because I don't like being the center of attention, but the reason I didn't mind was because I wasn't doing it for me; it was a charity thing, so it was like they were looking at something that I stood for rather than my actual self. And then right after, everyone applauded.

You may have seen a girl with very little hair walking around the hallways recently. That girl is none other than Beatrice Couser, a sophomore at ORHS, and on March 17 she attended an event sponsored by the St. Baldrick's Foundation and shaved her head to support cancer research. Her hair has grown longer since

"Cancer patients are beautiful, and it's nothing to be ashamed of; it's okay to be bald, it's nothing to be self-conscious about."

I walked over to my family and they were all beaming. Everyone was beaming. My mom had her camera out, and I touched my head for the first time and it was very weird, because my hair was peach fuzz, and I remember thinking that my head felt very small. Some of the complete and total strangers from before came up to me and said, "Oh, you got it done, congratulations, you look beautiful," and that was cool. I felt proud.

The event that Couser attended took place at 2:00pm on March 17, 2012, at the Stone Church Music Club. 16 people got their heads shaved, and a total of \$7,314 was raised (out of a \$5,000 goal).



Beatrice Couser just after getting her head shaved (top) and a month after the event (bottom).

MOR: How did people respond?

BC: There were a variety of reactions from everyone in my life, which I kind of expected. People at school for the most part either had very positive or very negative reactions; for example, a negative reaction tended to be from someone who didn't know why I'd done it or thought it was really over-the-top and strange. I wasn't super affected by that, because it was my decision to shave my head, and it's not like anyone's opinion is going to change the fact that I shaved it.

The positive reactions were generally from my friends, my teachers, or people I had never met before; it was pretty much like the actual event all over again - "Good for you, congratulations, you look pretty." The only one that really affected me beyond like "Oh thanks" were the people who I'd never met before - I had seniors coming up to me in the hallway saying "Oh, you're the girl who shaved her head for cancer, good for you." That was awesome, and that's kind of the point of shaving, because it's bringing awareness to the fact that cancer patients are beautiful, and it's nothing to be ashamed of; it's okay to be bald, it's nothing to be self-conscious about. Focus on your disease, focus on getting better, it really doesn't matter what you look like.

The last reaction was above and beyond the positive reactions, where people were actually influenced to do something similar. Mr. Lawrence, my art teacher, buzzed his hair to a couple millimeters in length to show support, and one of the supervisors for an after-school poetry thing that

I do cut her hair quite short, like a pixie cut, also to show support. Those were the two prime examples of "we stand behind you and we definitely, definitely think that what you did was awesome because we're doing it too," and I thought that was incredibly cool.

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Another thing was that people wanted to touch my head and just assumed that they could touch my head, like it was a pencil or an average object or something . . . it was quite intimate, actually; people would see it as a head, “I’m just touching a head,” but it was MY head. They’d make some benign comment like, “Oh, it’s so soft!” and I was like “yeah, but it’s MY head.” People would walk towards me in the hallway with their hands outstretched, just like ready to touch it, I guess, before they even said hi or anything. It wasn’t uncomfortable unless I really didn’t feel like getting touched at the moment; it was just another thing to get used to. I of course wanted to touch my own head and get used to it, so I understood that other people wanted to as well because it was a new sensation. It was interesting, and I understood that.

There are still a lot of people who regularly touch my head, and I’m thinking of setting a cutoff point because the sensation’s not all that new anymore—it’s kind of a personal bubble thing. I’m not sure if I want people running their hands over my head all the time anymore.

MOR: Have you noticed any pros and cons of this experience?

BC: Pros: My shower time is significantly reduced. I do not have to ever worry about what my hair looks like. I don’t have to take care of it or worry about what it looks like . . . unless I get cold, in which case I’ll think, “Man I really wish I had some hair.” It was fun getting used to new sensations: I rubbed my head on a lot of things, I had to get used to wind, sun, fabric, and shampooing my head. I also kept trying to tuck hair out of my face without needing to; I’d be talking in class and I’d try to tuck my hair behind my ear and it was like, “nope.”

Cons: I get cold sometimes, especially around my ears. I got dandruff for the first time in my life because my skin dried out due to more exposure. When the attention is for the wrong reason—I feel weird about not having hair sometimes, because I get scared that people will think I’m a boy or that I’m trying to look like a boy and miss the whole charity thing, and that’s one reason why I get nervous about people staring.

MOR: What would you say to people who also want to raise money or awareness for cancer?

BC: Do it. Right now. Everyone should have some completely life-changing experience like this—on their own choice, of course. I feel like everyone should reach the point where they’re ready to do something that will change their worldview. It might be something like a inner realization, like I need to change the way I’m acting—everyone should have that wow moment. It’ll affect other people around you: it either directly affects them by providing them with a wig or it’ll inspire them like donating money that’ll go to a good cause or having other people cut their hair in support. Just do it, because it does good for the world and you’ll like yourself for it. If you’re considering doing something like this, if you’re going back and forth between yes and no, just go for it. I’d say follow the Nike motto: “Just do it.”



A NEW PERSPECTIVE IN THE EYES OF ELVIS MORRIS DONKOH

By China Wong and
Lauren Sullivan
Guest Writers

“Africa is not safe! What are you talking about”, said Elvis Morris Donkoh. “It’s a big continent.”

Elvis Morris Donkoh, a 27-year old man, founded a group called the Alliance for Youth Development (AYD) based in Cape Coast, Ghana. This organization is geared towards helping children in Ghana who have lost their parents to HIV/ AIDS.

Josh Mosher, a freshman at Oyster River High School, invited Elvis Morris Donkoh to come in and speak for his power of one project after hearing about him through one of his dad’s friends “I chose Elvis because this is an on-going serious cause. Without Elvis and the home, these kids would essentially be left to live on the streets or die,” said Mosher.

Beginning from the day Donkoh was born, he was on his own. He was brought into a world with no family and had to start a life for himself.

Donkoh had no one to rely on except a few friends and their families and he was ultimately responsible for taking care of himself. He had to deal with the traumatic loss of his mother when he was not even one month old and the death of his grandmother when he was 5 years old.

At the age of 16, Donkoh had no choice but to drop out of high school because he couldn’t afford the \$20 school fee per month. “Nobody has ever told me to go to school. It was my responsibility to make the right choice without the guidance of my family,” added Donkoh. However, it got to a point where he just couldn’t afford the cost of schooling and had to find a job.

Since the establishment of AYD, the organization has promoted the general welfare of Ghana’s youth through direct support of people living with HIV/ AIDS and by providing grants for medications.

In 2005, he won the MTV-Staying Alive Award and won the same award the following year. MTV presented him with \$11,000 which he donated to his organization (AYD) and didn’t keep a penny for himself. Donkoh was then selected to represent all of the recipients of the award on the board of foundation. MTV brought him to New York City for the first time in an effort to spread his organization world-wide.

“I would rather be poor and help my people than stay in America and live well,” said Donkoh. “I can’t enjoy life, while my own people are suffering and dying.”

Additionally, AYD teams up with the Ghanaian Heath Service to provide free HIV testing in the district’s poorest communities. AYD continues to hold educational workshops on HIV/ AIDS prevention at a variety of high schools in Ghana and promotes youth development through sports and other activities.

Donkoh now has a diploma in Youth Development Work from the University of Ghana and is currently working on his Masters in Organizational Development at the University of Cape Coast.

If Elvis Donkoh could tell people in the United States one thing, he would say that “some kids would die to walk in your shoes, but they know they can never live be like you.” It is important to never take anything for granted in life and cherish every moment,” added Donkoh.

HIDDEN CREATIVITY



Annika Barth

Oyster River's literary magazine has been a source of artistic expression for at least 15 years. The current adviser of the magazine, Ms. Katherine Engstrom, has been running Lit for 10 years and before her it was run for at least several years by Kay Morgan. Engstrom's favorite part about being on the lit magazine is, "seeing the students' work getting recognized...and I also really enjoy watching the staff

discuss the work of their peers...they have a lot of insight that I appreciate." Senior and Editor Harry Slepian, said, "I love the lit mag, it's like a little family. I like the atmosphere and how low key it is." Sadly, though, this year the literary magazine has fallen short on both staff members and submissions.

"If I don't have the interest then it [the lit mag] just won't happen."

The magazine usually produces two issues a year but due to lack of submissions there will only be one this year. "We have been short on poetry and art-

work, but we recently had some poems submitted. Art-work, we still could have gotten some



more," Engstrom said. The number of submissions needed to complete an issue varies depending on the variety of the pieces submitted, but it usually consists of 20 pages of art work and prose poetry.

The lit magazine has also suffered from a shortage of staff members. It began the year 10 members strong but due to sports and other commitments, especially with theater and Driver's Ed, it has been reduced to three faithful edi-

tors who show up consistently, plus one or two others who come every now and then. Slepian said the only thing he dislikes about the lit magazine is "the fact that no one knows we exist." Compared to prior years, this year there has been a smaller group involved and not many submissions. In the future, Engstrom hopes to

have more students join. The few faithful editors who consistently show up are all seniors and the other upperclassmen who occasionally make an appearance have a strong interest in and commitment to theater. The newspaper and yearbook, two other major commitments that draw staff members away from the "lit mag," will be offered as classes next year, which Engstrom

hopes will make it easier to recruit staff members. But, she said, "If I don't have the interest then it [the lit mag] just won't happen."

Meetings are held on Mondays to review submissions, which are submitted anonymously.

The strengths and weaknesses of the pieces are discussed with respect and sensitivity and the staff votes, giving it a yes, no or maybe for publication. "It's surprising to see who's a really good writer," said Slepian. Before joining, each member must sign an agreement to keep discussions of pieces confined to the meetings and to give feedback mindfully and respectfully. "The agreement states that they recognize that what we publish represents our school...and we have conversations that need to be kept confidential," said Engstrom. Submissions are sent in anonymously by email to oysterriverlitmag@gmail.com or they can be given to English or art teachers.

Unlike the newspaper, the magazine is published in color so it is more expensive to print, so fewer copies are printed. They are distributed throughout the school in the front office and library. The magazine will be published in mid to late May. The literary magazine has yet to be published online.

On Wednesday April 18, the three editors of the magazine, Harry Slepian, Julie Krzanowski, and Erin Leahy, participated in a poetry reading event from 7:00-8:00pm at the Durham Public Library. ORHS's Poet Laureate, Daniel Belshaw, several students from Ms. Horsely's and Ms. Yatsevitch's Poetry and Fiction class, and Ms. Engstrom's freshmen English class joined the magazine editors. Staff and interns, including Ms. Engstrom, read poetry as well, followed by an open mic session.





Becca Hoff
Guest Writer

BATTLE OF THE BEVERAGES

"I'm gonna have a tough time choosing where to get my coffee...that's all I know."

Oyster River High School junior Hannah Grant expresses the feelings of many residents of Durham and coffee and tea drinkers who frequent the downtown area for their caffeine needs. Favorite local coffee shop Breaking New Grounds is facing

potential difficulties as larger coffee and donut chain, Aroma Joe's, plans to open a new location only a few steps away from BNG's own front door on Main Street.

For years, BNG has been a hotspot for students at the University of New Hampshire as well as the Oyster River School district and general residents of the Durham area.

The cozy hole-in-the-wall atmosphere of the coffee shop has contributed to its status as one of the most popular hangouts on campus. "I come here way too much. Their lemon poppy seed bread is really really good," says UNH freshman Sally Pollard. "I also like to do my studying in the back corner on the couch." Like Pollard, most long-time customers don't see a need to switch their daily routine with the arrival of Aroma Joe's. However, they do acknowledge the potential for the bigger company to have a negative effect on business at BNG.

ORHS English Teacher Kara Sullivan, who visits BNG most weekday mornings for her usual coffee and bagel, says "I plan to keep going [to Breaking New Grounds]. I like their food and coffee and I'd rather support local and organic businesses than more commercial ones." Some have other reasons for sticking to BNG over Aroma Joe's; Junior Mandi Lathrop says "Aroma Joe has ugly cups. So I'm not gonna go there."

"For years, BNG has been a hotspot for students at the University of New Hampshire as well as the Oyster River School district"

Despite the deeply-rooted love many area residents have for BNG, there are those who say the arrival of the new coffee shop will likely change how often they buy coffee from the local shop. ORHS senior Brittany Lapointe says "I've been going to the [Aroma Joe's] in Barrington for a while. The guy there knows my order so I have no doubt the guy at the Durham one will learn it in no time. Maybe the Barrington guy could just phone it over." She laughs before adding "plus they're a lot cheaper than BNG, I think." Aroma Joe's lower price points will likely appeal to students who don't always

have a lot of expendable cash on hand. Aroma Joe's also appears to give you more for your money; a large coffee beverage there costs around \$2.25, while a comparable size at BNG can run you a bit more, cashing in anywhere from \$2.90 to \$3.30. As Grant says, "all that change adds up."

Local residents are not the only ones realizing the problem BNG may be facing. An anonymous barista who chose who has worked at BNG for 2 years says "we are a little worried. We're hoping our fan favorites can keep customers loyal to our shop. Hopefully we won't lose too many frequent buyers." The menu at BNG has not been extended despite the fact that Aroma Joe's has an extensive beverage and food selection.

"I plan to keep going. I like their food and coffee and I'd rather support local and organic businesses than more commercial ones."

- Kara Sullivan

"The Red Bull drinks at Aroma Joe's are so good. You can't find them anywhere else, or at least I haven't," says Lapointe. In addition to their unique flavor combinations and wide variety of available beverage choices, Aroma Joe's boasts a long list of baked goods, including numerous donut, muffin, and scone flavors. Even BNG customers who appreciate the shop's homemade breads and cookies and purchase them regularly admit that at a lower price they would consider getting their fix elsewhere. ORHS junior Shelby Dillman states "I'm a student. I'm absolutely broke. If I can save even a little bit of money here or there I'm going to do it, so hearing that [Aroma Joe's] has cinnamon chip scones is definitely gonna affect how often I come [to BNG]."

Aroma Joe's employees are looking forward to financial success with the opening of their new Durham location. Barista Aaron Michaels, who works at the Rochester shop, says "we're definitely psyched. There's a general consensus that our products and price range will be good for the large student population in Durham."

As the grand opening of Durham's Aroma Joe's approaches, residents seem to have mixed opinions and thoughts on how the larger chain will affect BNG. There are those who will stay true to their local business, those who will flock to Aroma Joe's as soon as the doors are open, and a few who are uncertain whether or not the new coffee shop will change their routine. Despite varying views, most agree that it will be interesting to watch the battle of the beverages and baked goods ensue in the weeks following Aroma Joe's arrival.



SENIOR WILLS & DESTINATIONS

Zach Ahlgrim
Destination: Endicott College
Will: Dick Reece: my skills with Lawrence chem and your child, baby dick.
Jeff Ahlgrim: a real chance of love
Little O’rourke: Fat discount double checks
Emmet Todd: my love and our seat on the ski bus
Matt Segil: free food at MCDs

Austin Alphonse
Destination: St. Lawrence University
Will: Corey Scarano: My oceanfront Italian Villa in Sicily
Ethan Druskat: A “Phonse-load” of drawings and doodles
Ayan Imai-Hall: A Boston Creme star donut from WaWa
Jason Alphonse: A slap on the wrist and MY mini-van
Mr. Whalen: A peaceful existence without Scott and I

Andrew Armstrong
Destination: Villanova University
Will: Christian- My kick and honorary brotherhood
Drew T.- Honorary seniorship
Wes- My staff and hair
Drew H.- Responsibility for the freshmen and Christian
Cam- Any swagger you don’t already have
Hunter- Unlimited tags in Facebook photos-to be distributed at my discretion

Talya Auger
Destination: Dickinson college in Pennsylvania

Kaylen Beary
Destination: UNH
Will: Emma Salvati- The softball team and everything witty, sarcastic, and casual (:
Gina Kliska and Ariana Dawson- Someone more ride-needy than me for next softball season
Gina Kliska – That \$5 for gas money
Kaya Cooley- 2nd base - you deserve it!
China Wong- My pitching expertise...
Danielle Lelio- All the music on my iPod and of course all the Youtube videos you can watch
Ashley Constantino- all my awkward moments
Aisha Halabi- a rainbow
Amanda Martin- mirror selfies and of course my love
Lauren Sullivan – The spag we never had at your house

Brenna Cahill
Destination: UNH
Maggie Chutter
Destination: Colby College

Natalie Bilynsky
Destination: UNH
Will: Amanda Souvannaseng: #6 field hockey jersey and Tracy
Shauna Bulger: captain status
Deanna Druskat and Alana Saravong: three more years with Nick (good luck!)
Zack Jones: all the hellos and high-fives I never gave you
Megan Comeau and Liza Macdonald: women’s lit memories

Carter Bradley
Will: Cooper Hoffman- The Core, The School, All the hazing
Nathaniel Fisk- The Core, The School, All the hazing
Kyle Knight- The Core, The School, Fish
Seamus Clancy- A Dead Arm
Anthony Shea- The Core, The School
Cassidy Carmichael- The Core, The School, \$WAG
Sean O’Rourke- Steez
Allie Harris- Whhrrrrrrrrddd

Marissa Biederman
Destination: University of New England
Will:
Peter Dubois: all my love!!
Andrew Gass: all my soccer steeze
Becca Murphy: the hockey team and Jamie Long
Seamus Clancy: all the hearts that he could possibly imagine

Katie Burzon
Destination: Pratt Institute
Will: to the littlest harling- i leave everything, may you carry your brothers spirit in the oyster river community
becca: everything Nicolas Cage and the tennis team and lucas
fredrick: the moharimet playground and all my love
hannah: sam from dover (avicii) and kates basement, please keep dork and eileen company

Mikal Caldron
Destination: 4 years Daniel Webster
Will:
Troy keep that stache looking awesome
Lawrence (art) no causing trouble
Wally keep it stylish and bromley can have my English accent since it’s better (that’s a joke)

Ned Clarke
Destination: Keene State College

Nathan Corliss
Destination: South of the Border
Will: I leave the party to Jesse Bornkessel

Maura Collopy
Destination: Keene State College
Will: Katherine Howard - Amy from La Festa
Meaghan Shannon - A concussion free season and Rocktober
Girls swim team - A championship win
Boys swim team - A 6peat
Chris Rouleau - Manners
Bill Reeves - A new person to pet
Mr. Pappas - Better luck with the visas next year

Tommy Daigle
Destination: New Hampshire Technical Institute
Will: Ryan Kerrigan - the ability to be a lady killer
Brendan McKenna - all my extra food so he can grow big and strong

John Deturk
Destination: Keene State

Ethan Druskat
Destination: Colby College
Will: Nyles Lawson: Domino’s Pizza
Cam Barth: The track team
Emmitt Todd: 2 sailing lessons (given by me)
Pranav Nanda: 14
Andrew Gass: My finest pearl earrings
Deanna Druskat: My House
Phonse: All my paintings
Phonse: Half a year of math
Zack Jones: the danks
Seamus Clancy: A wink
Ben Freid: some crust
Billy Salmon: 8 Marshmallows
Zack Park \$.04

Scott Fillion
Destination: Pace University, New York City, New York
Will: Drew Thibault: My iPod to listen to after morning swim practice
Katherine Howard: The responsibilities of swim team and a concussion free year
Charlotte Moore: New York City after I am done with it

Wilson Fwu
Destination: UNH
Will: Davon Snowden - It straight happened
Joshua Brown - Number Four: know you heard this before



Ryan Garner
Destination: Lyndon State College
Will:
Copper Hoffman and Nate Fisk- OG, the senior core, and the ability to boss my little brother.
dumb a\$\$ people- all my anger.
Ms. Miale- all my love, because nobody else deserves it.
Mr. OC- the song, call me maybe, to blast during every CIM class you ever teach.
the sanctuary- thanks!

Liam Grenier
Destination: trade school to become a panderer
Will : school: above my waist
Amelia Svanholm: everything else

Reed Guerino
Destination: Suffolk Madrid

Taryn Haas
Destination: New Hampshire Institute of Art
Will: Alicia Hiltunen: All of my random outbursts.
Sam Jackson: Every ex-boyfriend of mine. and all the crazy puppies and kittens ladies there are in the world.
Jessica Blom: Our own Ezra Fitz.
Olivia Bolen: The best 3 years of your life.
Noorjte Heilbron: Longer Skirts...
Tim Lawrence: The memories we shared and a blueberry muffin.

Haley Haggard
Destination: Chowan University

Alexander Harling
Destination: California here I come
Will:
Matt Segil: My NV press pass
Ian Avery-Leaf: My coming of age skills
Zander Hobbs: A prom date on my Honda metropolitan 2005 awesome scooter
Aaron Slepian: Canadian women on my razor scooter
Liam Cooney: Adelia Couser
Adelia Couser: Liam Cooney
Mr. Krauss: MOR & a real job & Allison Krauss
Mr. Kelly: Some of the attributes that make Mr. Krauss so cool
Chad Burns: Sorry no one left you anything so you can rummage through my room & take something that interests you.
Jason Alphonse: Country music. Congrats Austin’s leaving by the way.
Becca Hoff: My collection of Austie comics

Morgan Howard
Destination: Wheaton College

Cody Jacobsen
Destination: Ireland?
Will: Matt Segil - One swimming pool
Dick Reece - the Cross Country team
Emmett Todd - A Deep V
Rye, Ox, Bevs, Patch and Seamus - The Lacrosse Team

Alex Jones
Destination: Hamilton College
Will: Haley: Jonesy and Shelly
Chris: some manners
Katherine: a dinosaur and a lawlrus
Charlotte: a new dog because I’ll probably hit yours before I go to college
Drew: some height

Joe Lane
Destination: USNA foundation program at “The Peddie School”
Will: Will: drew thibault - swim legacy
Zach Scholz- the ages of 60 through 100
pieter zwart - speedo
swim team - WINNING

Steve Luna
Destination: Fitchburg State University
Will:
Andrew Gass- Autumn
Sadie moore- My pants
Zack Jones- Lawn

Riley Maynard
Destination: Endicott College
Will: Molly McQuade: high balls
Allie Harris: Dingy faces
Adele Ziemack: oreo/chocolate chip cookies
Sadie Moore: “bring your cat to practice day”
Claire Salmon: foot de-odorizer
Liza MacDonald: the 98% nickname
Billy Salmon: railroad tracks

Logan Miller
Destination: Hole in Wall
Will: Isabelle Banker and Ben Freid – PCP

Reilly Lawrence
Destination: To the fires of Mount Doom in the land of Mordor, in an attempt to destroy the ring of power then Johnson State College
Will: Cam: White Adidas and an adventure
Dick: A sausage egg and cheese on a croissant
Megan: An uninterrupted G-free and the yearbook.... haha best of luck
K-Rod: A one way ticket to the next stop... Schwepp City
Emmet: Music on the ski team bus (haters gon hate)
Matt: The entire world!..... of Risk on the ski team bus
Becca: A possum tornado

Annemarie Lelio
Destination:
University of New Hampshire
Senior Will:
Isabelle Beagan: Completely Inappropriate PDA....all day, every day.
Alex Eustace: Jay Z and winks from across the room
Natalie Sailor: World’s Best Selfies
Nathaniel Spence : High School Musical
Liam Wiberg : The Drama Department (have fun)
Julia Katz: A whole BUNCH o’ boys
Catherine Geiger: The tiny kids who just tap the keys at piano recitals
Adelia Couser: A Yellow Box and the manager of BOTH buildings.
Liam Cooney: String Cheese and my everlasting love. <3
Amanda Martin: The Carpooligans and the mailman.
Blake Caple: Hugs, from your precious angel. <3
Kiersten Anderson: Pete Galen
Claire Hawkes: MOSS! ...and carrots.
Alexandria Trombley: Fake kisses (maybe some real ones too)
Danielle Lelio: Pancakes
The Entire Drama Department: One trillion hugs and cuddles <3 Please be nice to Ms. Caple, okay?

Erin Leahy
Destination: Vassar College
Will: Birdie: half my wardrobe, my board games, all the left-overs in my fridge right now, and my eternal love.
Izzy and Julia: the future of lit mag, and my raw animalistic sex appeal.
Big Brenn: the other half of my wardrobe, and of course, the volleyball team!
Liam: Annie’s fake boobs-- use them well.
Alex: all the alpacas you desire, my boy.

Kyla McCabe-Corrow
Destination: Simmons College
Will:
Becca: Dane Cook and salt bagels with olive cream cheese
Cassidy: lunch dunks trips
Freddy: almond iced tea
Katie Sylvia and Shauna: Danimal and secret “secret bobcat”
Hannah Grant: some cds and the core
Claire Salmon: happy cats

Molly Mcphee
Destination: Clark University
Will: Kaeli and Olivia: Dame rd. and all its adventures
Becca: Gus’s ghost
Melissa: All of my shoelaces to add to your hoard
Lynn: Pink chunks...and ice dancing!
Molly: The last White Mountain hut
Ellen: Track stardom
Bdaly: W crew

Kate Mistretta

Destination: Rennsalaer Polytechnic Institute
Will: I'd like to leave nothing to no one.

Paige Moody

Destination: Macalester College in St. Paul, MN
Will: Becca Hoff: my charm and good looks....Jeremy's FSG...Titanic 2D Molly, Olivia, Anna and Becca: Ben Jensen
Katie L and Anna: Advanced Writing pass around game, pretentious feedback and snacks in Brewer's room
Giles and Zack Jones: Como se dice... Spain Trip
Ski Team: Top of the World, jean skiers, Christmas sweaters, waffle fries and honey mustard
Sadie Moore: Robot chirps
LAX: Chop, the Champaign Range, YOLO changing lives....
Eliza Balch: Fergus....Everything XC
Pranav: Pearce and RFL
Mandi: Mandi Warhol.... Learn Lab
James and Zaq: Rhino Thursday
Big Al: Ball bucket punishment...moonshine debates...
Ellen, Lynn and Melissa: colonial washboards

Eric Mulligan

Destination: Gap Year/Semester abroad in Europe
Will: Emmet Todd- My heart
Patrick Mulhern- Volkl Ledges
Matt Segil-A Dirty Nalgene
Zach Park-Nothing

Brogan O'Rourke

Destination: Stonehill College

Emmy Poehlman

Destination: St. Lawrence University
Will: Aaron Slepian: my undying love and devotion
Brittany Daly: Patrick Mulhern
Matt Segil: Chloe Sailor
Sarah Huston: my leftovers

Kevin Quinn

Destination: Nah idk what that is haha
Will: Matt Segil - water purifier and my flow
Emmet Todd - the ski team
Bevins & Levine - Selia Libby

Devin Thomas

Destination: University of British Columbia

Julie Roehrig

Destination: Keene State College
Will: Cam Messer- you're a poop. Mama Macs is all yours
Jessica Roehrig- one crazy mother
Mego Shannon- 3 state championships
Ali Stewart- all the cookies being baked for julie day

Emma Rotner

Destination: Connecticut College
Will: Haley: A state championship, the distance lane and the confidence to lead it
Meaghan: Morning practice breakfast dates, my prom dresses, and the love of an older sister
Charlotte: Running jump hugs and a fantastic swim season
Katherine: A casual, concussed free season and FUDGE



Chloe Sailor

Destination: University of New Hampshire
Will: Nathaniel Spence- Anyone besides my sister... seriously.
Jack Nimmo- My everlasting love
Corey Scarano- A better gag reflex
Nyles Lawson- Gabrielle Short and her undying love for you
Tey Missoum- Emmy Poehlman
Patrick Mulhern- Brittany Daly...her number is 603-479-5205
Anthony Shea- Gonorrhea.

Christian Sbrilli

Destination: Coming back next year to party with underage girls (Willy style)
Will:
Zach Park: I leave my normal sized eyes
Jack Lombard: My passion for school and education.
Chad Burns: Bee Keeping Club

Tony Sergi

Destination: University of Montana to pursue a degree in Astro-Physics.
Will: Cooper Hoffman: Teach the rest of the school how to be real, because obviously they don't know

Gabrielle Short

Destination: UVM
Will; Nyles Lawson: My heart
Katie Sylvia: My phone case.
Stephen Luna and Chloe Sailor: The tent
Brittany Daly: Aidan
Travis Hackett: Bieber Fever
Reed -manly chai

Harry Slepian

Destination: UNH
Will: Alex Eustace-Some birds to feed and Edmundo the gardener
Branwyn Ritchie-Your coat, it actually does look better on you, I swear
Izzie Beagan-A Jew fro
Blake Caple-Sass
Julia Katz-The wonderful world of Unitarian Universalism and my love
Miranda Miller-The fireman's carry and other swell dance moves
Aaron Slepian-A really long high-five and the Slepian legacy
Shelby Dillman-The Clamby Pickleman legacy, and a table to dance on
Liam Wiberg-style
Claire Hawkes-my tumblr (but not really and so many hugs)

Sam Smith

Destination: Keene State
Will: Cooper Smith - my truck
Patch McDonough - The hockey team
Eliza Brown - My Justin Bieber poster collection

Genja Teleganov

Destination:
University of Massachussetts Amherst

Marty Thornton

Destination: Penn State Mont Alto
Will: Kelly Murphy: A tomato
Gilbert Lanoue: The title of Arch-mage of Game Club
Chris St. Pierre: Rhyme (so you can have something with your reason)
Jozi DuPrie: Alysson Flores and a cookie
Leslie Richard: Jozi (sowry Jozi)

Michaela Wiberg

Destination: Wagner College
Will: Izzy Beagen - my special sparkles
Blake Caple - the ability to live more than once
Austin Arsenault - my stone cold heart
Alexandria Trombley - a whole lot of patience
Julia Katz - a little bit of luck
Natalie Sailor - all the hugs I never gave you
Brenna Walzac - NPH
Claire Hawkes - A box of tissues for your tears when we're gone

PROJECT GRADUATION:
Celebrate a memorable “last night” with your
classmates on the

Casco Bay Mist Boat Cruise



Junior parents are staying up all night for you!
Treat them with respect please!

The evening’s schedule: JUNE 8, 2012

10:00pm - Graduates arrive at ORHS for check-in. Please be on time!
10:00-10:25pm - Graduates board buses after parent-chaperones check bags.
10:30pm - Depart ORHS for Portland, Maine.
Midnight - 3:00am Board the Casco Bay Mist Boat Cruise!
Enjoy dancing, eating, a fabulous magician, green screen and more!
3:00-3:15am - Boat returns to dock. Graduates board buses to return to ORHS.
4:30-5:15am. - Arrive at ORHS. Time to go home and go to sleep!

What to bring:

Dancing shoes
A windbreaker and/or sweatshirt
Wear comfortable clothes

What NOT to bring:

Water bottles
Money, Food, Beverages
Medications unless listed on medical form
Illegal substances – Don’t be stupid

A big thanks to our sponsors!

- Margarita’s Mexican Restaurant, 23 Member’s Way, Dover, NH
MEI-WEI, 7 Mill Road, Durham, NH
Regal Cinema, Newington, NH
Music Hall Theater, 28 Chestnut Street, Portsmouth, NH
The Works, 246 Route 108 Somersworth, NH
The Bagelry, Durham, NH
Calef’s Country Store, 149 Route 9, Barrington, NH
Red Carpet Flower Shop, 56 Main Street, Durham, NH
The Big Bean, 118 Main Street, Newmarket, NH
The Landing Restaurant, 81 Front Street, Marblehead, MA
Holiday Inn Express, Durham, NH
Hair That Moves, lena@hairthatmoves.com, Durham, NH
Wildcat Fitness, 7 Mill Road, #I, Durham, NH
Uppercut, 7 Mill Road, #D, Durham, NH
Serendipity, 41 Pleasant Street, Portsmouth, NH
Postal Center USA, 62 Calef Highway, Lee, NH
Durham Market Place, Durham, NH
Anonymous Donor!
Bellaviso Salon & Spa, LLC, 11 Main Street #A, Dover, NH
Rocky’s Famous Burgers, Newmarket, NH
Good Vibes, 16 Congress Street, Portsmouth, NH
Symmetry Yoga, 10 Calef Highway, Lee, NH
K9 Kaos, 432 6th Street, Dover, NH
Austin Studios Photography, 1 Morgan Way, Durham, NH
Warner’s Hallmark, 2 Market Square, Portsmouth, NH
Moe’s Italian Sandwiches, 7 Dover Road, Durham, NH
Durham House of Pizza, 40 Main Street, Durham, NH
Hair Dimensions, 3 Jenkins Court, Durham, NH
Pawtuckaway Nursery, 3 Calef Highway, Lee, NH
Seacoast Repertory Theater, 125 Bow Street, Portsmouth, NH
- Oyster River Teen Initiative
John’s Auto; John Wetherbee
Gunstock Ski Area
Diane Eddy
UNH
Nippo Lake Golf Course
Schoonmaker Architects
Cross Insurance
Lonza
Proulx Oil and Propane
Lenk Orthodontics
Tasker Funeral Home
Towle Driving School
Wes Merrit; Merrit Chiropractor.
Hackmatack Theatre; Berwick, Maine
Ogunquit Theatre; Ogunquit, Maine
Huntington Theatre; Boston, Mass.
Judy George
Clarke Family
MacDonald Family
Sahagian Family
McDowell Family
Szilagyi Family
Louis Clairizio; DDS
Wainwright Insurance
Elliot Moore
Lee Market Basket
Coca Cola Bottling Co.; Seabrook, N.H.





Ian Avery-Leaf
(ianaveryleaf)
Photographer

Everybody who owns a smartphone knows their favorite apps, the ones that actually get used and don't sit around in a forgotten folder. Out of the half a million apps in Apple's App Store, Apple chose everyone's new favorite for "App of the Year." In 2011 that app was Instagram, the rapidly growing photo social network that started in 2010 with just 2 employees, and is now over 50 million users strong and recently purchased by Facebook for \$1 billion.

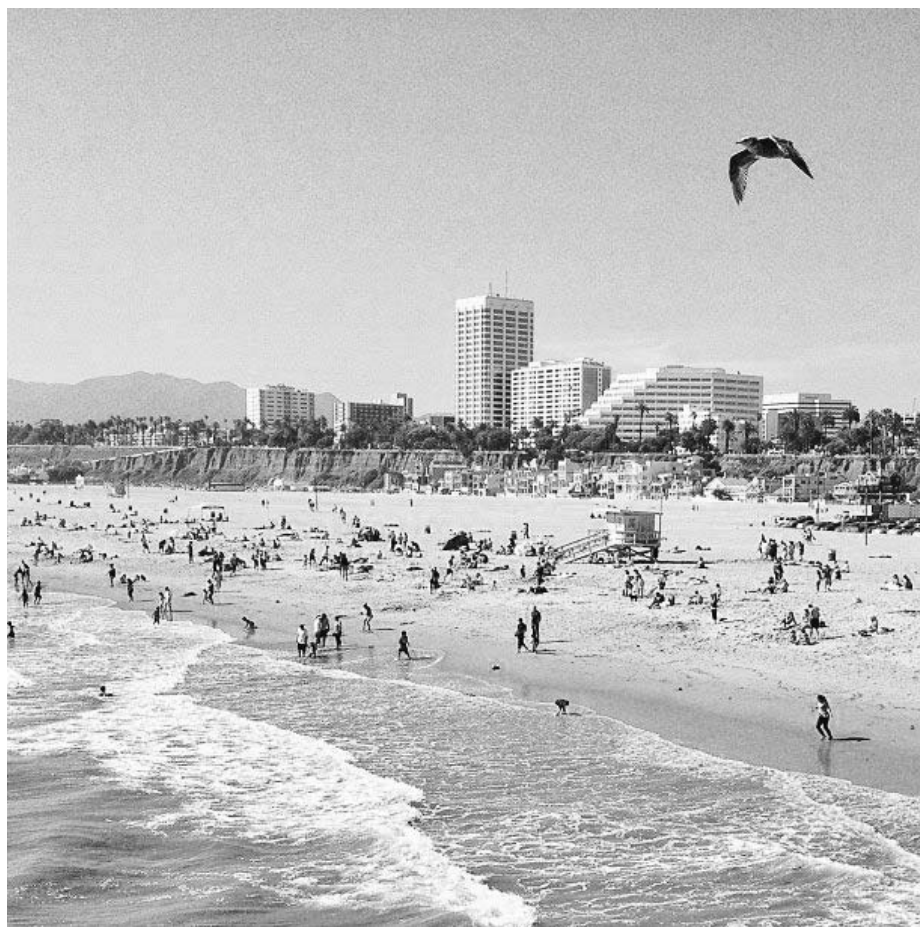
Instagram started in San Francisco when Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger chose to focus their app Burbn on mobile photography. They created a social network built around photos, and only photos. "Instagram is like Twitter but with photos rather than statuses, it's a lot more interesting" said Freshman Sam Colby (sam_colby on Instagram). Colby's photos are part of over 1 billion that have been uploaded since the service launched in October 2010. "Instagram really brings out the photographer in people" said Senior Genja Teleganov (teleganov), "it allows amateurs to pretend that they are professionals by applying one of 16 filters to your otherwise bland photos"

People post all kinds of photos to Instagram; food, action, selfies, landscapes, sunsets, interiors, screenshots, flowers, sports, clothing, pets, cars, drugs, portraits and more. You only have to look at what you want to see, since the social aspect works just like Twitter. You follow the people with photos you want to look at, use hashtags to share and search for photos, and if people like what they see on your feed they follow you.

"Instagram is the future of iPhone social networking" said Junior Chad Burns (chad-burns123), "why read boring snippets of what people are doing when you instead you can see through beautiful photos"

Over 100 Oyster River students are already an active part of Instagram, join for free on your iPhone to see what the hype is all about.

#INSTAGRAM



Santa Monica, CA



Beaver Creek, CO

MOR STAFF RESPONDS...

"If you could do one thing over the summer (with no time, money, or travel constraints), what would it be and why?"



"Burn down a public building because I hate my life." — Emerson



"Go snorkeling because it seems fun and the fish are pretty."
— Annika



"Go to a third world country and eat all their food." — Christian



"See all my favorite bands in concert and meet them in person afterward." — Adelia



"Build my very own spaceship with lasers, rock and roll, and a wookiee co-pilot." — Billy



"Build a ship bigger than Billy's that's faster & Han Solo's my co-pilot & Yoda is the maintenance man." — Alex

BUSY AS EVER



Laurel Gibson
Features Writer

Even if you didn't have her as a language teacher here at ORHS, you probably knew who Joan Schaeffer was.

Schaeffer, a language teacher who was also involved in coordinating countless community service opportunities at ORHS, retired last year in order to spend more time with her family, travel the world, and do volunteer work overseas. She now works part time and is still volunteering, making it obvious that she is still as busy as ever.

Schaeffer holds a part time position at National Registration Center for Study Abroad, "[Last summer] the company that I worked with as a teacher to organize and lead student trips overseas for so many years offered me a job to promote for them," she said. Now she works "on a part-time basis as a conference exhibitor and workshop presenter." She visits schools, works with clients, and helps develop study/travel experiences for other teachers and their students. Schaeffer's retirement has also given her more time to travel with her husband Pete.

Schaeffer recently traveled to Central America for about a month, first to Costa Rica and then to Nicaragua.

In Costa Rica, she and her husband did volunteer work in a poor community outside of San Jose and visited several national parks. In Nicaragua, they joined a team of Habitat for Humanity volunteers to build a house.



With students at a school in La Carpio, outside of San Jose, where she did volunteer work

"Time is more flexible and I have the freedom to structure my own activities," says Schaeffer. Her priorities now include exercising, walking her two golden retrievers Sadie and Simba, gardening, and spending time at her house in Maine.

Despite her busy schedule, Schaeffer still finds time to "do volunteer work locally," whether it be working at a nearby soup kitchen or coordinating a church program for homeless families.

"Of course I miss everyone- the students and my colleagues. I loved all the time I spent with students teaching French and Spanish in the classroom," said Schaeffer. But she does not regret retiring, "I have to say that I am pleased to be able to step aside and offer the chance to teach at such a wonderful school to a new, energetic person- the same opportunity someone gave me 37 years ago."



Alex Harling
Editor-in-Chief

TWO BIG NIGHTS OF MUSIC AT THE WHIT



For two nights in a row, the Whittemore Center of Durham was alive with the sound of music. On Wednesday, May 2, the Eli Young Band and Kip Moore played exciting southern style sets to an eager crowd dressed in cowboy boots and hats. On Thursday, May 3, Hip Hop artists J. Cole and Big K.R.I.T. delivered shows full of bass and in turn created a sea of fist pumpers.

The Eli Young band, a country group of Texan descent, is comprised of Mike

Eli, James Young, Jon Jones, and Chris Thompson. The group has been performing since the 2000s but has recently received national attention with the 2011 release "Life at Best" and their #1 hit "Crazy Girl," which won country song of the year. "I have gained so much respect for country music," sophomore Jason Alphonse said after seeing the show. "I was unsure of what the show would be like and as it turned out I was pleasantly surprised." Opening act Kip Moore delivered a southern style set that gave the Eli Young Band something hard to follow. Moore's debut album was released in April and features hits, "Somethin' bout a Truck" and "Marry Was the Marrying Kind." Moore was available between sets to greet fans and offer his autograph. "Country music has some negative stereotypes up here," Ian Avery-Leaf said, "but after seeing this show I know the stereotypes are just born from ignorance."



Thursday, May 3, Hip Hop artist, J. Cole, played a set to a crowd of about 3100. Big K.R.I.T. opened the show with their mix of hip-hop and pop rap. In 2011, Big K.R.I.T.'s his debut album peaked at the #1 spot on the US Billboard 100. This success even sparked a nomination in his name for Best New Artist. His songs' "Can't Get Enough" and "Work Out" captured the attention of Hip Hop fans across the nation and were some of the most anticipated songs of the show. "Big K.R.I.T. stole the show," Emmet Todd said, "The music was ok but the crowd was real angry. There were two fights behind me and I ended up breaking up one of them." Some fans a real different opinion of the turnout of the show, "People were getting kind of violent but I was just watching the stage and singing along," said Sophomore Hannah Switzer. J. Cole's tour is reaching most major cities in U.S. and is an act to keep your eye on. The Whittemore had about 3,800 eager fans at the show.



Adelia Couser
Features Co-Editor

WHICH MOR DEPARTMENT DO YOU BELONG IN?

You may think you're familiar with the departments of *Mouth of the River*. Everyone knows that News people write news articles, Features people write interesting articles, Op-Ed people write about their opinions, and Sports people cover the sports. That's all there is to our school newspaper, right?

OR IS IT???

This quiz will disprove any beliefs you previously held about MOR. Through a series of probing and deeply personal questions, you will discover your true personality and learn which department you belong in. Close your eyes, take a deep breath, and prepare to find your inner self*.



Mr. Kelly and Mr. Krauss, the two loyal supervisors of *Mouth of the River* and your new bosses.

1. If you were an animal, which one would you be?

- A. An elephant.
- B. A sloth.
- C. A dog.
- D. A moth.
- E. A lion.

2. Your written response to a social studies reading is due next week. What is your strategy?

- A. Start it as soon as possible. There's no use procrastinating, even if it's not due for a while.
- B. I'll work on it if I have time. It'll get done eventually...
- C. Make it fun! I'll connect the reading to something that happened in my own life, and that way it won't seem like work.
- D. I'll probably forget about it until the night before it's due, and write it then.
- E. Teachers love me so much that they don't assign homework.

3. You are in the middle of a PowerPoint presentation, and something goes horribly wrong. What do you do?

- A. Keep going. You might as well salvage your grade while you can.
- B. Begin stapling things together in a fit of confusion and humiliation.
- C. Continue the presentation, but start shouting the information at your class. Why do bad things always happen to you?
- D. Stand there for a good five seconds before recovering & moving on.
- E. Grab your cell phone and leave the room immediately, pretending to have received an urgent call.

4. Which of the following answers best describes your friend group?

- A. Quiet, academically-oriented, and hardworking. We're pretty normal.
- B. Goofy 24/7, with one or two mature people in the entire group. We're rarely serious.
- C. Creative and constantly gossiping. We love to think of new things and aren't afraid to share our point of view.
- D. I walk alone. No one really knows I exist...
- E. Popular and well-liked. We're often seen as leaders.

5. What comment would you be most likely to find on your report card?

- A. A pleasure to have in class.
- B. Often gets off-task.
- C. Occasionally dominating the discussion.
- D. Very quiet. May need to work on getting homework done more consistently.
- E. Eager to help others, sometimes at the expense of getting their own work done.

6. Which cartoon character do you identify the most with?

- A. Lisa Simpson from The Simpsons.
- B. Cosmo from Fairly Oddparents.
- C. Stewie from Family Guy.
- D. Charlie Brown from Peanuts.
- E. Mr. Krabs from SpongeBob Squarepants.

TALLY YOUR SCORE...

MOSTLY A's: NEWS DEPT.

You are relatively quiet and good at staying on task. People appreciate you because you're dependable and even vital, like the NEWS in NEWSpaper. At any given time, there's usually one person that you're mad at, but you rarely confront them about it.

MOSTLY B's: FEATURES DEPT.

You're pretty goofy and have a hard time getting things done. People appreciate you for your great sense of humor, but you may exasperate teachers due to your chronic procrastination.

MOSTLY C's: OPINION EDITORIAL (OP-ED) DEPT.

You're very stubborn and you love being right (and you often are). You like voicing your opinions, whether it be through debate, writing, or casual conversation. You may have a bit of a gossip problem.

MOSTLY D's: SPORTS DEPT.

While you may not be that interested in something (an event, an after-school club), you always seem to get involved somehow. You're often late to social gatherings. People don't notice you too much, but you're good at showing up last-minute to finish your assignments or pull your weight in a group.

MOSTLY E's: EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/SUPERVISOR OF MOUTH OF THE RIVER.

You are a true leader and like being in charge. You tend to have friends from several different social groups. You may find yourself talking to a large group of people and then suddenly deserting them to answer your cell phone (Alex Harling, we're talking to you).

BEHIND THE COSTUMES



Harry Slepian
Op-Ed Writer

Liam humbly describes himself as being “the most humble, honest person I know.”

He believes he has a lot in common with his character, “I can understand the innate need to help people less fortunate than I.” Because of this, his methods for getting into his character are simple “I admire myself in the mirror.”

[Ed. Note; all Liam Wiberg’s comments should be taken ironically]

ANNEMARIE LELIO (Roxie Hart)



Annemarie Lelio, a senior, plays Roxie Hart in Chicago. “I think I’m assertive, genuine and easygoing. Also silly. Roxie is naïve, stupid, self-centered and short-tempered.” Despite this dissonance between them, though, she

can still relate to Roxie, “I can be self centered and naïve, especially when I’m over tired!”

Annemarie has conflicting feelings about her character, “She can be very annoying and does and says the stupidest things, but you still have to love her. She’s just that tragic.”

CATHERINE GEIGER (Mama Morton)

Sophomore Catherine Geiger doesn’t think she has much in common with Mama Morton, who she describes as “Incredibly corrupt, incredibly sexual. She’s on top of everything, she has that power, she’s completely confident.” Catherine considers herself to be “lazy, imaginative, trusting and ridiculously emotional. As far as things in common, nothing really”

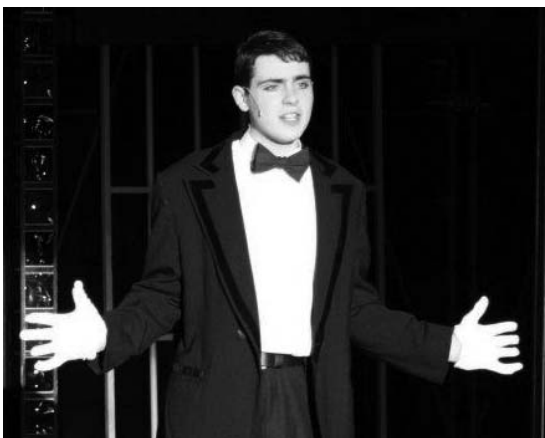
So how does she embody someone so different from herself? “I try to completely forget about myself,” she says. “Instead of embracing her I try to leave myself behind so I can focus on the character.”

ALEX EUSTACE (Officer Irving Fogarty)

The small, but pivotal role of Officer Fogarty is played by Alex Eustace, who describes himself as “fun, rambunctious, a people person.” To get into his role, he’s crafted an elaborate backstory for Fogarty “He is a blatant homosexual cop. He never got the respect he deserved, because other cops didn’t see him as equal. He’s determined to prove himself by solving all of the crimes of passion in Chicago.”

AUSTIN ARSENAULT (Amos Hart)

Austin Arsenault, a junior, played the role of Amos Hart, who he says “is kind of like a puppy that was kicked. He is faithful to those he loves even when it hurts him and he is taken advantage of.” Austin, describes himself as “serious hard working and optimistic, I think I’m hilarious but I’m probably not nearly as funny as I think I am.”



He doesn’t think he has a lot in common with Amos, but can still relate, “I am similar to him in the way that I tend to give people second chance after second chance. We both want to believe... that if given enough chances people will do the right thing.”

NATHANIEL SPENCE (Mary Sunshine)

Nathaniel Spence relates well to the role of Mary Sunshine, a seemingly female reporter who, in the end, is revealed to be a man in drag. “He and I are very comfortable with who we are and how we feel about ourselves.”

He describes Mary “as a character who is in tune with himself and doesn’t fully accept the world for the way it is. He sees the world, but instead of seeing all the bad, he finds the good in everyone.” He says he shares this optimism and tries “to see the best in all situations.”

JENNIFER TAYLOR (Velma Kelly)

Playing Velma Kelly is Jennifer Taylor, a junior, and a dancer, actor and singer. She says that “my passion is the performing arts and I study in all areas, and plan to major in musical theater in college.”



Because of this shared passion, she can relate to some aspects of Velma Kelly’s character, “I share her love for performing and definitely relate to her thrive to work her way to the spotlight.” But personality wise they differ greatly. “[Velma] has a harder character than me and is more pushy and full of herself than I am.”

MICHAELA WIBERG (Kitty Katz)

Michaela Wiberg plays Kitty Katz “an heiress with a temper whose family owns all the pineapples in Hawaii.” Unlike most cast members, Michaela can relate easily to her character “I have a temper, I’m sassy...we’re the same person except she’s rich!”



Matt Segil
Editor In Chief

SKILLFUL SKELLY

It's a Saturday night in Springfield, VT, and inside a ring in a musty high school gymnasium the future Golden Gloves boxer is throwing punches like there's no tomorrow. *Wap ... wap ... wap-wap-wap!*

He looks up at the guy towering above him – the lanky scrapper from Merrimack, NH - who he doesn't expect to last long.

But he does, and by the end of the first round the tables have turned. The underdog starts to wear down the future champ. He's throwing punches from the outside and backing off just as quick.

At the end of three rounds, the max in amateur boxing, he raises his arms in victory.

"We just kind of wailed on each other," said the victor, reflecting on that night in 2008.

Just who is this mystery boxer, anyway? Lou Mroz? John Monahan? Martin Brewer? John Morin?

Nope! It's none other than ORHS English teacher Shawn Kelly – otherwise known as Skelly, Skel, Skellz.

Waaaaaaat!

Some folks were surprised to hear the story.

"He doesn't look like a fighter," says junior Aaron Slepian.

Oh but he is, and there is quite the story behind it.

Skelly started off in high school with a burning desire to learn Kung Fu. It all started when Wu Tang Clan, a popular hip-hop group from the 1990s, took over his life and he was exposed to the teachings of Kung Fu. After four years of diligent study, Skelly graduated and went off to Keene State College.

The next step on his journey occurred in college. Skelly was working hard at academics when a sudden urge overwhelmed him. He immediately knew he had to get back in the mix of martial arts. He started practicing Aikido at a nearby dojo. Aikido is a fluid martial art that involves momentum and a series of joint locks.

Shortly after college Skelly got a job in Burlington, VT as an English teacher. That year he picked up boxing, a sport



Skillful Skelly doing a backflip

known for its quick jabs and solid whacks. It took a while but Skelly developed his own style of fighting. He would tire out his opponents by letting them come towards him and then keeping them at bay with his long arms.

The technique paid off, as the future Golden Gloves champ learned the hard way. Skelly, for his part, walked away with a bloody nose and a victory he carries to this day.

An interesting twist followed the victory as the next year Skelly moved to France. He knew a good amount of French from his college semester there and had a lot of old friends. He had been offered a job as an English teacher there and took it up with a passion. In no time at all he found his next martial art: the Olympic sport Judo.

Judo is full of complex grapples. Skelly may not be the biggest guy but his height is a certain advantage. In the year that he was in France he picked up a series of holds, locks and throws that he incorporated into his existing fighting style.

The next year, in the summer of 2009, he moved back to the states and temporarily settled in Virginia, where he worked as a line cook full time for about a year. In his spare time he visited a Mixed Martial Arts gym and picked up more tricks of the trade, especially moves from Muay Thai and Ju Jitsu.

Working hard for three hours a day, four days a week, Skelly got in the best shape of his life. After a year of hardcore exercise he moved back to New Hampshire to get back to his roots. Getting a long term sub job at Souhegan High School, Skelly was thrilled to find a teaching spot open at Oyster River.

After a 7 month period of excellent teaching he was finally guaranteed the job long term. Everyone was ecstatic (especially Skelly). He remains to this day a strong force of good waiting for any villain brave enough to challenge him. So remember to think twice next time you get angry about that F he gave you on your English paper.



Skelly looking as dreamy as ever

DDM IV: ADVICE FOR THE FUTURE



Adelia Couser
Features Co-Editor

Summer is in the air, and you just want to get out of school and be outside already. You find yourself having more days where you feel tired and bored and just plain sick of being in math class. Thankfully, someone at Oyster River is always there to break you out of these dark moods, a man who’s always willing to pat you on the shoulder or return your high five. A man who always has a beaming smile on his face. Someone who’s kind and respectful and (let’s face it)...perfect.

(No, it’s not Ryan Gosling.)

For the fourth and final time this year, John Morin graces the pages of *Mouth of the River*. “I’m always amazed to have the opportunity to be in [the school newspaper],” he says, blushing furiously when MOR approached him during lunch for this interview. “I’m shocked that you guys still want to hear about me...but once you’re in, I guess there’s no turning back.”

When asked about any life lessons he believes people should know, Morin clears his throat loudly. “Things aren’t always what they seem,” he declares importantly, “and you just can’t polish a turd.” He glances subtly over at his colleagues, Don Maynard and Amy McPhee, who are innocently eating lunch at the other end of the table. “Sometimes when people lash out like they did in that last newspaper article [“The Truth about Morin”]...there’s only so much you can do.”

Holding back tears, Morin quickly switches topics and begins to reflect on the 2011-2012 school year. “It’s been a good year, and I’ll be sad to see the seniors go,” he says. “Every year when [my colleagues and I] sit at the seniors’ graduation ceremony, I’m always impressed. We see these students when they come to our school from the middle school, when they’re 14 years old, and it’s always exciting to watch them grow.”

The gym teacher states that in the four years they see students, the PE department works on teaching them virtues like cooperation and respect. “Some people have the ability to fit in with any group in any situation, and some people struggle with that; sometimes they’re too focused on themselves to cooperate with others, and that’s why cooperation is a skill we try to teach. Students at this school are good at the respect thing, overall, and I think it’s important that they use these skills in the future.”

“One of the best things about entering a new year is that you can improve things from the year before.”

Morin then turns his thoughts to the next few months. “While the school year ending is always bittersweet, I think summer break is a good time to relax, reflect, and determine what you could do better next year. I feel like one of the best things about entering a new year is that you can improve things from the year before.”

He encourages students to enjoy high school while they can. “[Students at ORHS] attend a really great school, and I don’t think a lot of people realize that. This high school setting is so enjoyable to be around kids and to hear their opinions. It’s a good place to become a young adult and realize that what [you] do or say needs to be for [your] own benefit. You’re mature enough to be making your own decisions.”

In closing, Morin offers one last piece of advice: “One thing I hear a lot is students complaining that they’re never going to use what they’re learning now later on in life. Maybe you will, and maybe you won’t! But that’s not the most important part,” he says. “Whether or not you’re going to use the subject matter later in life, you’re learning how to learn, and that’s what’s important.”



John Morin, former touring member of the Backstreet Boys, shares advice gathered from years of teaching experience.

ADVICE FROM PEOPLE WHO’VE BEEN THERE.

If you’re going to be a freshman next year...

“Don’t stand in the middle of the hallway when upper-classmen are trying to get through. It’s not cool.”

“Do your homework. It’ll get you into a routine that you’ll be thankful for later on in high school.”

“Get involved in after-school clubs or sports as soon as you can.”

If you’re going to be a sophomore next year...

“Just because you’re a year older than the freshmen, don’t act like you’re so much cooler.”

“Have fun and try hard.”

“Paint your face red for the pep rally during spirit week.”

If you’re going to be a junior next year...

“Stay on top of all your schoolwork. This is the year when colleges will start focusing on your grades, so try to keep up with everything.”

“Take the PSAT and study for the SATs—I know it sounds cliché, but it’ll really help when you have to take them.”

“Be respectful to the seniors...bow down to them.”

“Start visiting colleges over break and during weekends so you can get a head start on deciding what you want to do after high school.”

If you’re going to be a senior next year...

“Take the SATs early.”

“Try not to get too stressed out by college stuff.”

“Before you graduate, take the chance to do everything you’ve wanted to do but haven’t.”

SENIOR SKIP DAYS



Haley Haggard
Guest Writer

The day before a three day weekend in early march, 107 members of the senior class at Oyster River High School were absent from school to keep the tradition of a "senior skip day" alive.

Although 107 seniors were absent from school, Mr. Allen, the principal at Oyster River states that only 9 students were true skippers, because parents called the other 98 students

out of school. "The whole 'skip day' idea doesn't work when you have mommy and daddy give you permission." He is not condoning this skip day, but he does understand where the students are coming from. "Do I personally begrudge seniors the rite of passage of having a skip day? No, as long as they understand that it is my job to enforce the rules."

Kody Pitkin, a senior at Oyster River states that a "skip day" is important to the senior class. "Having a skip day is a high priority for seniors. It can be really beneficial for the kids that need a day off." Tyler Reynolds, another senior at Oyster River states "I like the skip days because they're near the end of the year and it's a good excuse to take a day off if you can afford to be absent."

The tradition of a "senior skip day" has quickly turned into "senior skip days" states Andrea Drake, a math teacher at Oyster River. "I understand that want for it, but the number of days and the early-ness is excessive." The number of legitimate "skip days" that the senior class has had this year is up for deliberation, but it was more

than one. Mr. Allen has a similar opinion to Drake. "It's kind of funny how this 'skip day' notion has turned into a multi-day thing. Multi-day skips days are much more controversial. [I'll be more] concerned about it if it becomes a problem." Reynolds states "The first skip day was dumb because it was just a couple of kids wanting to skip school, it wasn't set up properly. The main two that we had and will have are fine because the kids playing spring sports can't miss that day." Alex Morrel, a freshman at Oyster River supports the idea of a "senior skip day", but only one per year. "Skip days are great as long as they aren't

happening too often. Having one a year is good idea because it makes that day really special. Once you have more than that there's a point where they aren't useful anymore."

Since these "skip days" are so popular at Oyster River, do other schools in the area have the same thing? Katherine Wysocki, a senior at Coe Brown claims that they don't have a senior skip day. "I've never even heard of a 'senior skip day'...but I'm pretty jealous that Oyster River has one. At my school I highly doubt that an entire class being absent would fly with the administration."

"It's kind of funny how this 'skip day' notion has turned into a multi-day thing. Multi-day skips days are much more controversial." - Andrea Drake

This tradition has been taking places for ages, but has the attitude of the students changed over the years? "It's not just an Oyster River tradition," states Allen, "every high school in the United States probably has their own version of it, but if it's becoming an Oyster River tradition to have multiple then [the tradition] may be changed." Drake agrees with Allen's point, and adds that the attitude of the students has become less positive. "In other schools they do them near the end of the year. Unfortunately, students

have gone toward it's a right. You get out before the rest of the school anyway." Although the idea of this tradition becoming a multi-day thing isn't something that pleases him, Mr. Allen states "If they're going to do it, [this one] was as well-handled as it could have been handled."

"Having a skip day is a high priority for seniors. It can be really beneficial for the kids that need a day off." - Kody Pitkin

Brenna Walczak, a sophomore at Oyster River isn't sure if she will take part in a "skip day", but states that whether she participates or not, there's no stopping it. "[My class] will probably continue the tradition

but I don't really have a say in it. I can't control whether other people skip or not." Morrel states that her class plans on skipping at least one day their senior year. "Senior skip day are practically necessary...of course my class plans on carrying on the tradition."

WORD SEARCH

R V T Q P K B C M L J E K G M V I Y Q Z D G P G N
B E Y E O V D C O O L O S X N A D D B E N R A I R
L T P L G A H N W O U A Z S T U R N A E X N R C W
U W C A N G O G D M N T B S O Z N Y O T G B M T Q
S K S K P T U Y U G H D H E Q R S Y J S U R Z W Y
Y O I K P S S N I N K C A O S D C Y Z A H G U F P
O E K M D F W H P D C Z Y D F A A A C L N K N J Q
S A O H G A I E C V A Q S P D T B M L F L E D Y D
Z C M A I L N Z N T L D U X E Y H E M I T F E H C
F L O W E R S K U K E W D G X E K E U R P G B K R
E D D I E I R V I N D A A Y E R K P R F P U N R E
A L E X H A R L I N G R C O C G A N G I T Q O A C
Z D W W Y O K B O R K B Y H A D P I R T V R O U C
K N Z D N C A T L A I B O S E C C H E A H E P S O
G I A B G E E K B U G A S W P R L R K E G I R S S
F E U E G A R B Q H N A H W L N F M N H G E C P M
H N G R N N B C S X H T N C G L U N A Y L P R U H
K P U U A R D D Z A O U R G Y N E J S F Y B D J G
X M X A S A P G O L B J Z S S S I Q P T P C T A K
A G K S W C F O W K K Y E O Y T D K M N R O G S H
L G G H V I N D M W M U E A S H A I O Q T O U G I
U R A Z G I E H C S J S B N H N F F T O K N W W L
U N P J A I V U J G A W S P M S J Q K Z C E P W G
V O L L E Y B A L L R E S P E C T F U L H Y M A K
X M Y K Z I Y L L E K S F G A Z H G N E X D Z T O

ANSWER KEY

- RESPECTFUL

NEWSPAPER

MOUTHOFThERIVER

BUTTERFLY

FLOWERS

TEACHER

ALEXHARLING

SKELLY

VOLLEYBALL

KRAUSS

BASEBALL

SOCCER
- LACROSSE

BREAK

BUNK

CHAIR

CHEFTIME

COOKING

COONEY

LIAM

OCGANG

STEEZ

SWAG



Harry Slepian
Op-Ed Writer

OYSTER RIVER THINGS

The weird and wonderful things that make Oyster River unlike any other suburban New England public high-school

The Cores-Is there anywhere in the school more central or important than these? I'm pretty sure not, although I'm also probably wrong. But who can forget the outrage of allowing sophomores in the Junior/Junior-Sophomore/Second-Floor/Whatever-We're-Supposed-to-Call-It-Now Core?

They're essentially the social centers of the school; where you can go to hang out with friends, be intentionally late to class, avoid eating in the cafeteria, or where underclassman with senior friends can go to avoid their own grades.



Katie Burzon catches up on Arthur

The fact that I'm always in proximity to at least one person with an unironic appreciation for Arthur-Seriously, that's true. Try it.

The h.u.m.a.n.-The food is insanely good, it takes \$5 bills and

credit cards, and it isn't really any more expensive relative to a normal vending machine. Plus, it will work tirelessly to get you your food. Once, it spent two minutes getting a bag unstuck. On the other hand, sometimes it eats my money and doesn't even register it, but hey, it's only h.u.m.a.n.

Proximity to downtown-the fact nearly every block Senior Seminar in Literature class has met at Breaking New G.Rounds is priceless.

Women's Shoes-Scientific polls have shown that Tom's, Birkenstocks, Uggs, Bean Boots, Sperry's account for roughly 99% of the shoes worn by Oyster River girls.

The Gros Tetes-mostly because my French classroom has been adorned with Gerald from Hey Arnold, Nicki Minaj, a deformed hedgehog and a burning hot-air balloon for the last four months.



The Non-Existence of Hall Passes-One day I realized that at some schools you can't just go to the bathroom or your locker or wander aimlessly without getting stopped. Thanks for trusting us, guys! (Full disclosure, I really don't care about the security cameras. It's not like they're in the bathrooms.)

The above-mentioned Gerald and Burning-Hot-Air-Balloon gros tetes

The English Electives System-Instead of being stuck in English 1-4, we have the chance to take Shakespeare, Journalism, Debate, Women's Lit, Poetry and Fiction, and whatever Genre Studies is.

Follies-There will always be Follies. Additionally, about 99% of the time Follies will be almost cancelled before being saved

last minute by a hope and a prayer. Follies will inevitably vary from surprisingly funny to awkwardly terrible. Even in 2006 when they were banned from the school the seniors rallied and managed to stage one off site. They're like the Nicholas Cage of Oyster River; throughout old age, controversy, lack of inspiration and a tendency to be awful they keep marching on.

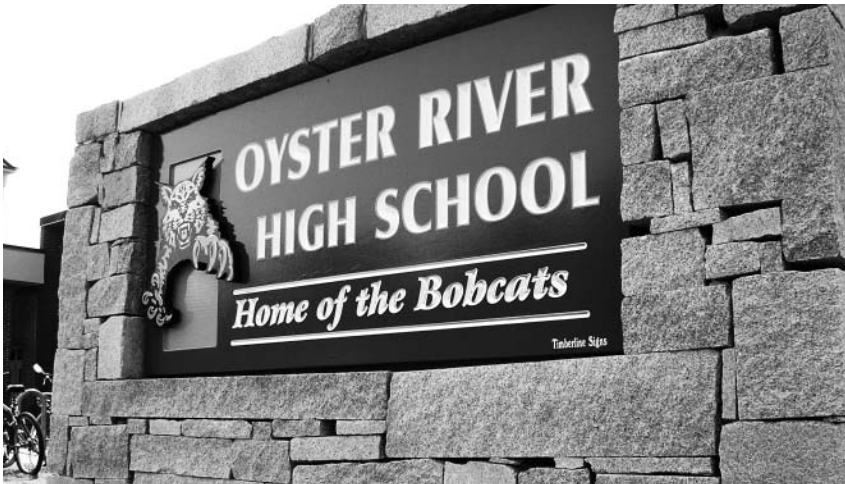
Moharimet vs. Mastway-I doubt there is anywhere with a fiercer competition between elementary schools. It seems ridiculous even to me, but I have engaged in legitimate arguments about which is better. And for the record, Moharimet's playground, Mr.



A small part of Moharimet's truly epic playground met's playground, Mr. Harrington, the sugar shack, and the fact that we employed Mrs. Miale first trumps everything Mastway has going for it every time. Yes, I'm petty.

ORHS IN ONE WORD

ANNIKA- Variety	KELSEY- Mixed
ZANDER- Relaxed	CHAD- Liam Cooney
SOPHIE- Unique	MR. KELLY- Friendly
GENJA- Liam Cooney	IAN- Liam Cooney
ADELIA- School	MATT- Stellar
LIAM COONEY- School	MR. KRAUSS- Um...



THE FUTURE OF MOUTH OF THE RIVER



Kelsey Hails
Op-Ed Writer

The rumors are correct. After this year, *Mouth of the River* will no longer be an after-school activity; it will become a class in the form of Journalism II again.

Last year, many of the advanced placement classes were removed largely due to funding cuts for the school, but also due to a smaller number of students signing up than usual because the senior class was unusually small. It didn't help that the incoming freshman class was larger than usual. The school board formed a new policy: they wouldn't fund any classes with fewer than ten students. This caused a lot of classes to be canceled, including Journalism II, which was where *Mouth of the River* was made.

Formerly, you had to take Journalism I before you could take Journalism II. This idea sounds good in theory: you get more practice writing in a journalistic style and more experience with news media, but you had to be at least a sophomore to take it. Since Journalism II was a full-year class, you had to be a junior or a senior before you could write for the school paper.

However, there were some advantages to having *Mouth of the River* as a class. Because it was a class, students had fifty minutes a day where they had to work on their articles, deadlines were always met, and there could be five issues a year instead of four. Also, students were assigned a grade based on the quality of the paper since it was a class, which also served as motivation to meet deadlines.

I'm a senior, so the change back to the original format doesn't affect me either way. Even if I wasn't a senior, I took Journalism I last year, so I could write for *Mouth of the River* anyways. Though this new change has both advantages and disadvantages, I feel bad for the students on the *Mouth of the River* staff who will be affected by this change next year. Journalism II or no Journalism II, we've had some great writers-and some great times together-and it'll be sad to see them go.



From left to right: Chad Burns, Liam Cooney, Sophie Webb, Annika Barth, Adelia Couser and Laurel Gibson

Expect to see these people writing for a future issue of *Mouth of the River*...maybe!
(unfortunately, Matt Segil and Zander Hobbs, not pictured, couldn't make it to this meeting)

ISLAMOPHOBIA (A REALITY CHECK)



Anika Naher
Guest Writer

Imagine that you're walking down the street. Your average day includes dirty looks and nasty stares. Passersby look you up and down, sneer, and point when they think you're not looking. They whisper to their friends about you. You hear the words "towel head" and "terrorist." Whether you're a man with a beard and *taqiyah* (prayer cap) or a woman with a head scarf, it hurts to be treated this way.

Why does this happen? Why do so many non-Muslims continuously provoke Muslims in this country? Why here, in the United States, where we have freedom of religion, freedom of expression, and freedom to show the world whether we are Christian or Muslim or Jewish?

A potential answer to this question is that Americans are afraid of Muslims and their religion (Islam) — or, to sum up this behavior in one word: *Islamophobia*. Islamophobia is what happens when you combine fear with a lack of knowledge of Islam.

To explore this matter further, a group of people at ORHS were asked to say the first word that came to mind when hearing the word "Islam." Responses included the words terrorists and 9/11. However, this association of 9/11 with Muslims is a mistaken belief; while the people who instigated 9/11 claimed to be Muslims, they were not true believers of Islam. The problem is that a majority of Americans don't know this, and therefore they continue to link 9/11 with terrorists, terrorists with Muslims, and consequently Muslims with "bad people."

Hannah Herz-Khan, a Muslim of Durham, says that "it's unfair to compare 9/11 and terrorists, because you can't even call the people who [bombed the Twin Towers] Muslim." She supports the belief that Islamophobia was heavily brought on after the horrific event, and Iman Ashtiani, a Muslim of Texas, agrees.

"[People] have been exposed to the media's negative view of Muslims."

"I think [non-Muslims] are close-minded, to a sharp point," Ashtiani says. "They have been exposed to the media's negative view of Muslims, and while the phobia is generally fading from people, it still [exists in the minds] of a few."

The media's "negative view of Muslims" that Ashtiani is referring to is the portrayal of Islam as a violence-oriented religion. In reality, a Muslim's life goal does not involve killing millions of people in order to get a point across — this practice is only held by a few terrorists. Genuine Muslims do their best to follow the five basic acts of Islam, called the Five Pillars: they testify that there is only one God (*Allah*), pray five times a day, give money to the poor, fast during Ramadan (the ninth month in the Islamic calendar), and make a pilgrimage to the city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia. Some women wear a *hijab* (head covering) to show modesty, morality, and respect for their religion.

18-year-old Nusrat Khan is a hijab-clad woman from Indiana, and she understands just as well as anyone the difficulty of trying to live a normal life. Khan started wearing the hijab as a freshman in high school, and she admits it that at first it was challenging to get up in the morning and be ready to confront her peers. "For the most part, everyone was very curious as to why I was wearing a scarf. After I explained, people had mixed opinions, but they were willing to accept it. As far as my other acquaintances, I did get a couple of awkward stares, but no one actually said anything to my face."

Now a freshman in college, she barely even thinks about her hijab. People have gotten used to her and treat her just like anybody else. Fortunately, she has also found herself a Muslim roommate, so with both of them together it's not as intimidating as taking on the world alone.

Khan's parting words? "You gotta do what you gotta do, you know? Deal with the crap well and live a good life. I mean, I couldn't be happier."

FRESHMAN REFLECTIONS

By Annika Barth



Annika Barth

The year before I came to high school, everyone exclaimed what a great time it was. They told me not to worry, I'd have fun. For the first few weeks, I waited to see what they were talking about, but nothing seemed to happen, nothing seemed overly exciting, just different and unfamiliar. I almost missed the middle school. And then, for some reason, all of a sudden I really began to enjoy myself.



Although I don't see my old group of friends as much, which kind of made me sad at first, I've managed to meet a whole new group of people and still stay in touch with my old friends. That was one thing that surprised me – pleasantly – the most about high school;



the friends I've met. It's been a lot of fun to get to know new people, including upperclassmen and kids in my own grade I didn't know that well before.

My positive experiences both academically and socially have given me a new sense of confidence that I lacked at the middle school. I no longer worry so much about popularity and what others think of me because I love my friends and I am comfortable with who I am. Although I still feel overwhelmed, stressed, tired and bored of school at times, and I still have absolutely crappy days, that's okay because everyone does. Overall, I feel happier here at the high school; I am having a good time and I am enjoying myself. Looking back on my freshman year, I'd say it about lived up to all my expectations.

Classes were fun; I enjoyed class discussions and I liked both my teachers and classmates, a combination that made me really look forward to coming to school (something my friends told me I probably shouldn't admit). I loved my schedule and the fact that I didn't have the same exact students in every single one

of my classes. *"Overall, I feel happier here at the high school; I am having a good time and I am enjoying myself."*

I've met a variety of different people and classes are interesting because of that. I've been able to manage the work load and get good grades, a satisfying feeling. The Power of One project has not been half as bad as I thought it was going to be. When I first heard about it, I thought it was going to be the most overwhelming, daunting task I was ever going to have to accomplish for school. I couldn't fathom or envision any way to get it done and I was dreading it all first semester. But now that it's over and done

"I've met a variety of different people and classes are interesting because of that."

with, I can say that is was rewarding and relieving to see it actually come together and it wasn't all that impossible at all when I took it one step at a time. Health was strange yet entertaining, mostly due to Mr. Q's humor and teaching. Gym class is much

better here than at the middle school. Students take it a bit more seriously and the units offered have variety and they're entertaining and interesting.



JUSTICE: A HIDDEN GEM



Kelsey Hails
Op-Ed Writer

Relatively recently, I discovered a clothing store with unique, vibrant fashions, a stylish atmosphere and, if you're in the know, very reasonable prices. The closest thing I could compare it to is Claire's in that they have similar styles, and even then, that doesn't do it, um, justice.

Justice has been in the Fox Run Mall for a couple years now. They sell an extremely wide variety of clothes for teenage girls. There are two Justices in this area.; the closest one is in the Fox Run Mall. There's a bigger one in the Kittery Outlets, but they don't have as many sales and since it's in Maine, you have to pay sales tax.

One of many great things about Justice is the sales. Whenever I stop in, they always have a sale on something. If you get their e-mail newsletters, they almost always come with a 40% discount coupon and occasionally with some great discounts for the online store (these range from 40% to 80%!).

I especially recommend going to their clearance sales. At one, I got six pairs of shorts for \$20-and since this was at the Justice in the Kittery Outlets; that \$20 is counting the sales tax! In addition to this, they will give you "J-Bucks" if you spend over \$50. With these, you get \$25 off your next \$50 purchase. If you buy \$100 worth of merchandise, you get \$50 in J-Bucks.

There's only one downside about Justice. Because they have clothes for both high school and middle school girls, they have a massive (and very inconsistent) size

range. They have all the way from size 6 to size 20. To put things into perspective, I'm 5'4", thin, and generally wear "Justice sizes" 10-12, though it does depend on the style.

However, I also own a pair of Justice-size 8 shorts and a Justice-size 16 pair of pants that both fit me perfectly. The size inconsistencies and poor labeling can make it a little more time-consuming to try on clothes, but after shopping there once or twice you can figure out your size range easily. It helps that they have an excellent return policy; one time they let me exchange a pair of shorts I had bought months earlier with another pair even though I lost the receipt.



Justice has some awesome jeans -and awesome boots.



I personally love their one-shoulder tops.

My recommendations? I adore their pants, especially their shorts. I've been able to find shorts in all sorts of patterns and colors that I have never seen at any other store. For example, I have shorts in magenta, purple, lime green, camo navy blue, and even some multicolored shorts. Justice also has an excellent selection of jeans; they're good quality and extremely comfortable (and cost about half what you'd get the same jeans for at, say, Hollister).

I got my two favorite pairs of jeans from Justice: one black skinny jeans with black studs coating the legs, and the other bright turquoise blue jeans. They have some extremely unique shirt styles that I've never anything remotely like in any other stores, including some summery ruffled tanks, circle tops, crop tops and some of their bandeaus. They also have some excellent tank top and graphic tee designs.

I suggest you check out their accessories. I've bought countless bracelets, earrings and necklaces from them. What-



ever style you're looking for, they have everything from preppy to punk to bohemian to classy. I've also bought other accessories such a pair of earmuffs (that I convert into headphones in the summer), a hat, and multiple pairs of gauntlets (or fingerless gloves, whichever name you prefer).



I also recommend their cosmetics, especially their perfume. It's reasonably-priced, about \$20 for a medium-sized container, but it's sweet-smelling, potent and lasts a really long time even with daily use. I recently tried their "hair mascara", and I love it. It's a little like temporary hair dye, but you brush it in with a mascara-like applicator. I have dark brown hair, and it shows up very well. I also recommend their neon lip gloss, which is really more like lipstick; it changes your lips to the exact shade on the container (I own blue and purple).

If I were to sum it all up as one style or type of clothing, I really couldn't. I'm sure anyone from this school could stop in and come out with at least one thing they love.

A NOTE ON FRIENDS (WHO HAPPEN TO BE GAY)



Harry Slepian
Op-Ed Writer

Recently I received a very strange request that I hadn't had in years: to be someone's "gay best friend." The request came from my brother's friend's sister, which was random enough, considering that I didn't even know that friend had a sister. Mostly I was somewhat amused, and a little bit surprised. It got me thinking about the notion of gay best friends for the first time in years.

For those who don't know, gay best friends, or GBFs, if I'm being succinct, pretty much a stock character from TV shows and movies. They're sassy, obscenely well-(over)-dressed, and always ready to dispense invaluable wisdom on relationships, sex, work, and anything else that the main character has going on in her (the main character is always a her) life.

Between eighth-grade and freshman year I was the GBF to a whole host of different girls. Looking back, and I was even semi-aware of it then, pretty much the only reason I got that label over-and-over again was because I was the only openly-gay guy in my grade. I didn't mind it, because of all the attention I was getting, but I did sort of ignore that fact that it was rooted in a basic misconception about me.



Pictured: Rachel Berry and Kurt Hummel from Glee.
Not Pictured: Any semblance to a normal friendship between a gay guy and a straight girl.

but that's mostly because I own an obscene quantity of cardigans, button-downs, t-shirts and skinny jeans that I mix and match half asleep at six in the morning, and I'm too lazy and cheap to use cologne or hair product.

That misconception is that I'm an every-gay. At that time I was closer to the stereotypes than I am now, largely because I had just come out and thought that was how I should act if I was going to be gay. I've been called sassy by a lot of people, even today, but really I'm just sarcastic to a fault, I'm really to dry about things to be sassy anyway. I dress well enough,

As a trope I'm fine with the idea of GBFs, they're usually funny, interesting characters, and I'll be honest, I do like seeing gay people on TV and in movies. I loved the perpetually bitchy but secret softy Mark on Ugly Betty, the borderline evil, always scheming Thomas on Downton Abbey. As far as characters go, GBFs are a reliably entertaining one to have in your wheel-house.

The problem is that the idea only really works on screen. Mostly because, much like every other stock character from the absent-minded professor to the elderly martial-arts teacher to the manic-pixie-dream-girl, GBFs in reality have a lot more going on with them than sass and style.

By this point my friends are people who like me because I'm me, not because I'm the closest thing they have to some imaginary character. I'm not their Gay Best Friend; I'm just their friend, and occasionally best friend.

Bottom line, you can't have Gay as a personality. It's sexual-preference, and doesn't determine anything more than who you're attracted to.

The fact is, like any gay guy, I fit some stereotypes, but mostly I don't and even the most typical gays exist for more reasons than to be bitchy and shop.

And that's the other problem with being a GBF. It's sort of like being the maid of honor. It's a really nice title to be given, but it's kind of a dubious honor. It's primarily about filling a role and having duties. It's not a real friendship because it's based on being a sidekick, not equals. That's why the GBF is always a supporting character in movies and on TV.

Even the most typical gays exist for more reasons than to be bitchy and shop.



This notably non-flamboyant photo depicts how notably non-flamboyant real-life gay-best-friendships are

A SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS OF TV GAYS

How gay are they?

RIDICULOUSLY
FLAMBOYANT

BARELY EVEN
REGISTERS



Kurt Hummel
(Glee)



Cameron and Mitchell
(Modern Family)



Thomas
(Downton Abbey)



Max
(Happy Endings)



Ian Gallagher
(Shameless)

DEVIANTART:

THE ART CAPITAL OF THE INTERNET



Kelsey Hails
Op-Ed Writer

For those of you who haven't heard of it, according to their website DeviantART, or DA for short, is the largest art website in the world. Though the main focus is art, it also functions as a social networking site for artists.

On DA, artists of all types and skill levels can receive critiques and comments on their art and improve their work. To many, it's much more than that. It's a site for artists to promote their work and a place for friends to network.

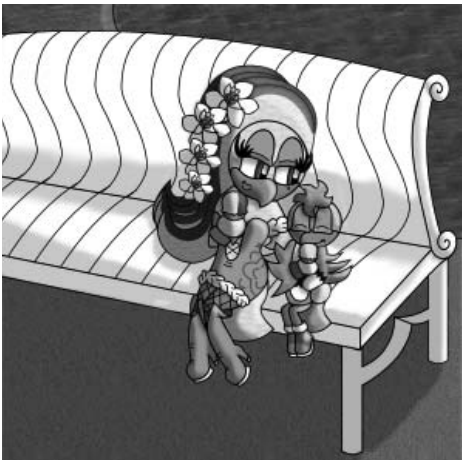


Look familiar? The pictures featured here are the same ones I put into the Senior Art Show!

If you're into art and have at least something of an internet social life, you've probably heard of DeviantART.



The DeviantART logo greets me every time I visit the front page.

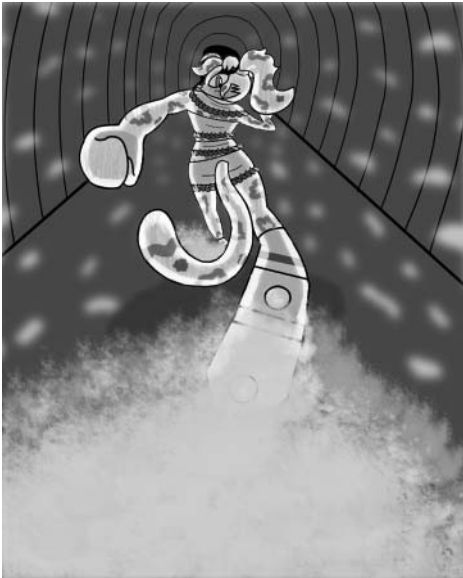


I'm mostly a cartoonist who works with a mix of traditional and digital media.

I've had a DeviantART account for about four years now, and I go on daily. I'm mostly a cartoonist who works with a mix of traditional and digital media, but I also have a fair amount of writing (both original and fan fiction) and photographs on my account. I love being part of a community of artists who can comment and critique on my work. Though I often show my artwork to my friends and family, I don't get the same quality of feedback in real life that I do online.

DeviantART is also a great place to find people with similar interests in not only art, but books, TV shows, video games, hobbies and more. For someone who draws for a fairly niche genre, this is very helpful for finding artists with similar tastes.

In the past couple of years, a "group" system was added, which allows people to form groups of users that submit art devoted to a certain subject. I'm in a couple hundred of these, and there are far too many on DA to name. To give some



examples, I most recently joined a Kirby group, a cockatiel group, a New England photography group, a contest group, a RP (role-playing) group, a critique group specifically for my type of art, and a pink-themed group.

In addition to feedback, DeviantART is a great place to network. As an artist and author who hopes to get published someday, it's nice to be able to find large groups of people within DeviantART who would be the target audience for my series, Eternity.

It's mutual; I can find things that I'm interested in from other artists and writers trying to network and promote their works. If you're interested in my fantasy series,



Eternity, stop by <http://eternity.hostingsiteforfree.com/eternity.html>

Over time, I've become very fond of the community and the way things are run on DeviantART. Although I have always been interested in art and always have wanted to go into art, it has confirmed that desire and greatly inspires me to pursue an art-related career.

DECISION 2012



Liam Cooney
Guest Op-Ed Writer

Over the past seven or so months I've been fortunate enough to meet various political figures and go to a variety of political events. Although not many 15 year olds will be as enthusiastic about this as I am, I've learned something by going to these events that may be slightly more interesting to your average teenager.

However, I do not fail to realize the fact that the country doesn't exactly seem to be going in the right direction. I am no longer so sure that President Obama will get us out of our economic crisis. And even if he does in the sense of lowering the unemployment rate, restoring consumer confidence, bringing the stock market back up and keeping it there, will he ever be able to even begin solving the problem of our almost unbelievably astronomical debt? Part of me is with the President and the other part of me is trying to find a candidate that I could actually support against him.

I realized that although I disagreed with the President on many different issues, I still trusted him.

Growing up, I've been surrounded by politically educated people. Both my parents and nearly all of their friends are politically educated and a couple are politically active. So, I started to learn about politics at a very young age and soon became intrigued by it and the way in which it works.

On June 21st, 2011 I went to a town hall meeting hosted by the former governor of Utah, Jon Huntsman, in Exeter. Earlier that day, he had announced his candidacy for President in New Jersey in front of the Statue of Liberty. As someone who, at the time, would most likely consider themselves an independent and was hoping for a moderate to get the Republican nomination, I was interested in Governor Huntsman and what he would say.

And if they don't want to vote, I'd be more than happy to accompany them to the voting booth and fill it out for them.

Oh yes! I don't get to cast a vote do I? I'm only 15. Then again, I'm able to go head to head with most adults about politics. Quite frankly, then, if I care as much about politics as I do, I don't really think many adults have much of an excuse not to vote. And if they don't want to vote, I'd be more than happy to accompany them to the voting booth and fill it out for them.

I don't remember being particularly impressed by him, even if I was hoping to be. I suppose you could say that I was slightly disappointed by him compared to what I was hoping for. Still, I thought that compared to other candidates who had announced at that time, I liked him. He said a few things that I liked, and he also seemed to have somewhat of a sense of humor and personality which pleased me.

You have to understand that in 2008 I was an Obama supporter. As time went on and he had been President for a year or two, I realized that although I disagreed with the President on many different issues, I still trusted him. Even if I didn't agree with him much politically, I still believed that he was giving an honest effort at what he was doing, being honest to the American people, and was a genuinely good person. For this reason, I was hesitant to support any Republican over the President in 2012; I still am.



Former intern, Mr. Krauss, and sophomore, Liam Cooney engaged in a heated political debate



Katie "Cash Flow"
Burzon
Sports

GENDER BIAS IN SPORTS

Not only do high school sports teams offer students fun and physical fitness, but they also help teens find the answers to life's complicated lessons. High school students get involved in school sports teams often come out with knowledge of sportsmanship, responsibility, teamwork and self-realization. However, as one looks closer into the rules of each sport, they can see both a gender bias and biased rules affecting the game itself.

Many female high school sports are "toned down." For instance, compare rules of men's ice hockey to those of women's ice hockey; we see more restrictive rules and a "safer" game in play. Hannah Grant, a junior and women's ice hockey player at ORHS, states that, "Rules are rules; you can't change anything about them, but it shows that people think that women are not strong and can not do what men do. [In hockey] we wear the exact same pads as the guys and still, we are not allowed to check." Grant emphasizes the fact that the playing fields for both genders are equal, and yet women still must abide by simpler, revised rules. Senior and ORHS volleyball player Kyla McCabe-Corrow stated, "Both teams should have equal rights; there should not be any differences. The game would be equal, like girl versus girl, not girl versus boy."

As a society, we are focused on leaving behind the early ideas of gender roles. We talk about equality in government, the workplace and relationships, yet we lack focus on improving gender roles in high school sports. Sports teams provide athletes with an opportunity to learn their earliest life lessons. It does not make sense to encourage this type of bias. The idea of making school curriculum easier for one specific gender would never be considered, so why are we allowing it in sports?

By changing the rules of female sports to make the game "easier" and "safer," we are giving female athletes ideas that later in life female responsibilities will also become "easier." One of the reasons sports are offered in high school is to give students a different and more creative way to understand key concepts which will assist us later in life, but making women's sports this undemanding will defeat the purpose and set young women up with the idea that these real life concepts will also be altered to their specific gender. ORHS senior and tennis player Brenna Cahill states that: "It's an equal playing field. It's discrimination against women and it belittles our athletic ability." By holding women back with restrictive regulations, we are limiting young women's capability and their drive to succeed.

As a female high school athlete, I can see the gender bias in sports rules almost every season. It is especially prevalent in women's Field Hockey, Hockey, Softball and Lacrosse. Not only can it be seen, but it has also become a topic that is widely joked about around the school. Many people (both male and female) know (and joke) about the simplicity of these sports, which has in turn put them in a bad light. Many females find that they are discouraged from playing the sport because of the badmouthing surrounding the sports and how unexciting the game is. McCabe-Corrow says that: "I think female athletes just lost interest in what the game has become. Personally I was going to play hockey as a winter sport or lacrosse as a spring sport, but since it is not aggressive and because the rules are altered I decided not to. I would



Junior Becca Hoff wipes away the tears that gender bias has caused in her life.

feel upset; I would feel like they were treating me like a little girl. That's not okay, it is clearly discrimination and it shouldn't be like that." McCabe-Corrow currently plays volleyball in the fall, which is one of the school's most popular female sports, she states: "I think that ORHS students have more respect for a game like volleyball because it is one of the few sports where the rules are merely based on the plays, and not the players' athletic ability." For a game like softball, it is not even the physical contact that is being controlled, but the players' athletic ability that is limited. For example, softball has always been played with an underhand pitch, which restricts speed and power. Grant believes there is no reason for such a disadvantage and questions why women can't just throw like men. Grant says: "I can understand that women aren't as strong, and I'm sure that's the case, but it's a sport; if you go to play the sport you know what you are in for." Senior and field hockey player, Natalie Bilynsky said: "It's not fair, because it's a level playing field.

When I heard the rules of field hockey I did not want to play it because I thought it was extremely stupid due to the amount of rules. I ended up playing and it was still fun, but I wish it was more aggressive. If male and female teams were to have the same rules it would be way more fun to watch and to play."

The government has played a small role in removing gender bias from any activity receive Federal financial assistance. "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance..." states United States Code Section 20. Restrictive rules in high school sports deserve to be classified under this code.

Historically, it was the early 1900's when physicians told women that they should not engage in "vigorous physical activity" because it would endanger their reproductive capacities as well as result in "unsightly" muscle development. As a society today, we need to move past these ideas. Women must be free to employ and challenge their bodies the way they want to. "A lot of people [females] want to go play the sport, but you're confined to these rules, it just limits what your full potential could be," says Grant.

As a female and an athlete at Oyster River, I do see gender bias. It is something that I hope to see change in the years to come!



Katie "Cash Flow"
Burzon
Sports

SPRING SPORT BIOS

GIRLS TENNIS TEAM

Captains: Brenna Cahill and Izzy Gorham
Inside Jokes: pete, rock bob-ster, hecca boff
Traditions/Rituals: spags and team stories
Favorite/Best Team Spirit: Blueberries (the teams vintage blue track suits/ warm ups)
Biggest Rivals: Portsmouth and Saint Thomas
Best Part of Sport: Food(/ feasts) at matches.

BOYS TENNIS TEAM

Captains: Reed Guerino, Alex Harling and Zack Jones
Inside Jokes: "yeah girls tennis", Taylor's cousins, Hunter's farm and sister.
Traditions/Rituals: pregame massages and yoga, John Mac
Favorite/Best Team Spirit: 2 popped collars, beach steez, commando day
Biggest Rivals: Portsmouth
Best Part of Sport: Winning, snacks and the women of tennis: Hunter's sister, Gile's sister/mom, Reed's sister, Taylor's sister and Andras Palfi.



The Wolf Pack gathers. Courtesy of Paige Moody.

GIRLS LACROSSE TEAM

Captains: Zach Ahlgrim, Ned Clarke
Inside Jokes: YOLO, call me maybe and "chop"
Traditions/Rituals: Invisible rope games at Chloe's spags, team cheer with an added howl at the end for the wolf pack effect.
Favorite/Best Team Spirit: Wolf Shirts
Biggest Rivals: Kingswood and John Stark
Best Part of the Sport: The team, because everyone gets along really well and we always have a lot of fun, everyone connects really well. Also, the coaches are the best part because they're wicked nice and super funny.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Captains: Zach Ahlgrim, Ned Clarke
Inside Jokes: Fenway Park and what happended in the bot-tom of the sixth. Giant redwood trees falling...
Traditions/Rituals: Chilling before games
Favorite/Best Team Spirit: Anything Smither's (Sam Smith) wears
Biggest Rivals: Theres some serious beef with Timberlane and Dover
Best Part of the Sport: We improve every game and always have fun.



Lax bros love tight clothes. Courtesy of Katie Sylvia.

BOYS LACROSSE TEAM

Captains: Kevin Quinn, Cody Jacobsen
Traditions/Rituals: Smudge, Hoorahs to Brotherhood
Favorite/Best Team Spirit: Birds
Biggest Rivals: Bow
Best Part of the Sport: Aidan Conrad

OUTDOOR TRACK

Captains: Natalie Bilynsky, Alex Johnson, Ethan Drus-kat
Inside Jokes: We secretly love to paint, Big Daddy, Rick Niccardi, Please eat your crust on your pizza
Traditions/Rituals: The Cane, the cave, Ethan always lies down before his races in the blocks, everyone does pushups when we drop the baton, pre-meet la festa. Shave before all meets.
Favorite/Best Team Spirit: Cut-offs
Biggest Rivals: Romario Bailey from Stevens HS, Dylan York from Bedford
Best Part of the Sport: Track helps you get into good shape and helps with most other sports. Also Nick Ric-cardi is also awesome.

GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM

Captains: Kaylen Beary
Inside Jokes: none appropriate for ORHS eyes
Traditions/Rituals: Pre Game cheers on and off the field
Favorite/Best Team Spirit: Carrying around cereal boxes and spoons (best originality)
Biggest Rivals: Manchester West; we come closest to beating them each year
Best Part of the Sport: We all love the sport. Obviously we don't care about the score, we play it because it's fun.

BOYS BASEBALL TEAM

Captains: Travis Hackett, Connor Grove, Sam Lewis
Inside Jokes: " He gone !!!"
Favorite/Best Team Spirit: Beach day
Biggest Rivals: Portsmouth HS



The baseball boys bond. Courtesy of Emma Daly.